MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

Q.E.D.

……証明終了……

Quod Erat Demonstrandum

加藤元浩

Motohiro Katou

II

KCGM796

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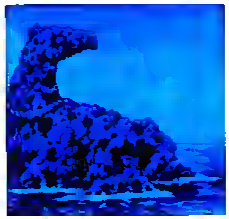
Q.E.D. 証明終了 II

加藤元浩

MOTOHIRO KATOU

講談社

II



寄る辺の海

冬の動物園

Quod

Erat

Sur Fanum

証明終了

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

Demonstrandum

Q.E.D.1
ミネルヴァの梟／銀の檻
Q.E.D.2
六部の宝／ロスト・ロワイヤル
Q.E.D.3
ブレイク・スルー／蜃せた星図
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Q.E.D.10
魔女の手の中に
Q.E.D.11
寄る辺の海／冬の動物園

This time's "Winter Zoo" is a winter story. "Sea of Refuge" is a summer story. The two stories are very seasonally separated, but because of editing they're right next to each other. Huh!? It feels out of place, doesn't it? Well, what I could say is "Please be satisfied that the flow of Japan's four seasons are in this book."

Motohiro Katou

カバーデザイン／朝倉健司

Q.E.D.11

証明終了

KCGM796

Q.E.D.
証明終了
11

加藤元浩

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加藤元浩

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

We solve every case
based on clues and evidence.

Q.E.D. 証明終了

II

加藤元浩
MOTOHIRO KATOU

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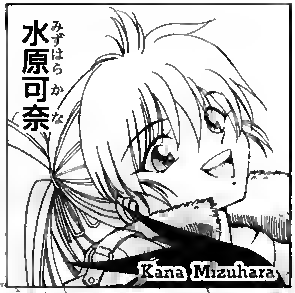
CHARACTERS



燈馬のクラスメイト。刑事を父に持つ。男勝りの行動力と、脳天気なまでの明るさがウリの、健康優良女子高生。

マサチューセッツ工科大学を15歳にして卒業、日本の高校に再入学した超天才児。多方面に豊富な知識を有する反面、人間の感情には疎い。

証明終了

I must tell you the truth about that accident
CLICK CLACK

WILL I BE ABLE TO HANDLE YOUR WRATH..?
CLICK CLACK
AFTER YOU KNOW THE TRUTH, HOW ANGRY WILL YOU BE..?

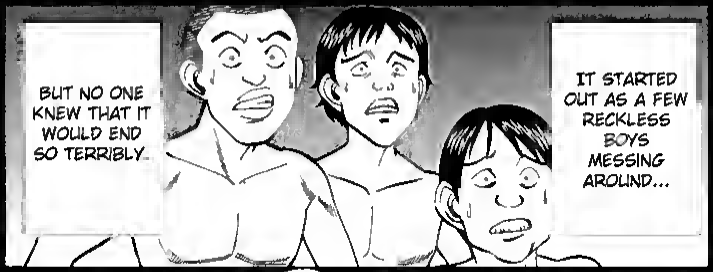
MAYBE I'M JUST A USELESS COWARD.
BUT EVERY NIGHT IS LIKE LOOKING INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE SEA... I JUST WANT TO ESCAPE FROM THIS NIGHTMARE...

40 YEARS AGO... WE LIVED IN A SMALL VILLAGE BY THE SEA.
SEA OF REFUGE

IT WAS A CALM SEA, WITH A VAST AND BEAUTIFUL BEACH
TWO KILO-METRES FROM SHORE, THERE WAS A ROCK.
IT'S HORSE ROCK, WHICH YOU SHOULD KNOW WELL.

THEY SAID, "YOU'LL BE CURSED IF YOU TOUCH THE HEAD OF HORSE ROCK."
WHEN WE WERE KIDS, THE ADULTS STERNLY WARNED US ABOUT IT.
AT NIGHT AT HIGH TIDE, ONLY THE HEAD OF THAT ROCK COULD BE SEEN ABOVE THE WATER.
I ONLY TRULY UNDERSTOOD THE MEANING OF THOSE WORDS WHEN I WAS 9... ON THE NIGHT OF THE ACCIDENT.
SWAM INTO THE DARK SEA.
AND SO THE FOUR OF US, YONEKAWA KOUKICHI, SEKIGUCHI KAZUAKI, IKADA SABUROU, AND NAITOU RYOUSUKE...
TO CLIMB THE HEAD OF THE ROCK, YOU HAD TO SWIM 2 KILOMETRES AT NIGHT

WE MADE IT!
WE COULDN'T EVEN REST OR TURN AROUND!
COUGH *COUGH*
BUT ...
HMM? WHERE'S RYOUSUKE?
THE RETURN TRIP SHOULD BE EASY THOUGH. WE CAN JUST GO WITH THE CURRENT
NO WAY! HE'S THE STRONGEST SWIMMER!
HE'S PROBABLY ON HIS WAY BACK ALREADY.
MAYBE HE DROWNED?
AND WE REALIZED WHAT THE WARNING NOT TO CLIMB ON THE ROCK'S HEAD REALLY MEANT: THAT WE COULDN'T SWIM AT NIGHT WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION.
THOSE WERE RYOU-SUKE'S LAST MOMENTS.



★この漫画はフィクションであり、登場する人物、団体、
地名、国名等は実在の名称とは関係ありません。

WHAT IS THIS, KANA? FROM WHAT YOU SAID, THIS PLACE WASN'T BUSY!
IT HAS KARAOKE, AN ARCADE, AND YACHTS!
情報
WELL, WE SURE WON'T BE BORED AT NIGHT!
YOU MUST HAVE FOUND THIS PLACE BY MISTAKE.
...

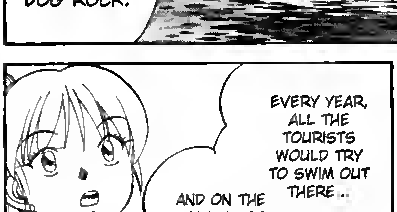
A SWIM RING?
COME ON, LET'S GO AND SWIM!
GAH!
COUGH *COUGH*
HOW WEIRD... I DON'T GET IT...
A WAVE HIT ME AND I SWALLOWED SOME SEAWATER.
THAT'S KIND OF WEAK...
ゴボ!

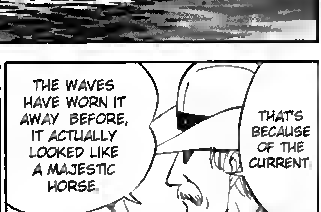
BUT, MIZUHARA -SAN, THE WAVES HERE ARE HIGHER THAN THE WAY YOU DESCRIBED IT.
I KNOW ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
HERE! JUICE!
THAT'S WHY I'M FINDING IT SO STRANGE.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I USED TO GO TO A PRETTY GOOD BEACH BEFORE.
THE SEA WAS CALM, SO IT WAS NICE TO SWIM IN.
YOU'RE GOING WITH YOUR CLASS TO THE BEACH?
AC-CORD-ING TO MY DAD ...
WHERE IS IT?
I'll take one.
THE BEACH TOO, WAS VAST AND BEAUTIFUL.
YUP! THAT'S WHY I'M TRYING TO FIND A GOOD BEACH FOR SWIMMING.

MY SHOULDER FEELS STIFF. I WONDER WHERE MY KIND DAUGHTER IS?
HUH?
SO WHERE IS IT?
IT'S A REMOTE SEASIDE VILLAGE. DEFINITELY VERY PLEASANT.
Not that one.
NOT ONLY DOES IT HAVE A LOT OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES...
IT ALSO HAS MANY TETRAPODS FORTIFYING THE BANKS OF THE BEACH.
IT REALLY IS DIFFERENT.
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
And he even forced me to play the "dutiful daughter"...
AND YOU ARE?
THAT'S SO WE COULD HAVE A YACHT HARBOR.

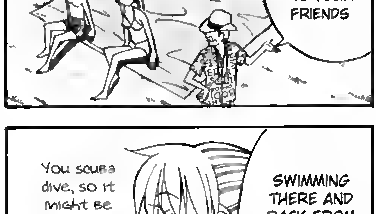
I'M THIS BEACH'S LIFEGUARD!
I'M HERE TO PROTECT TOURISTS FROM ACCIDENTS.
THANKS TO THAT HARBOR, THE NUMBER OF TOURISTS HAS INCREASED
AND MORE AND MORE SHOPS OPENED TOO.
BUT THIS HARBOR HAS ALSO CHANGED THE TIDAL CURRENTS...
MAKING THE WAVES A LITTLE BIGGER AND THE CURRENTS STRONGER.
LET ME WARN YOU ABOUT THE ROCK OVER THERE.

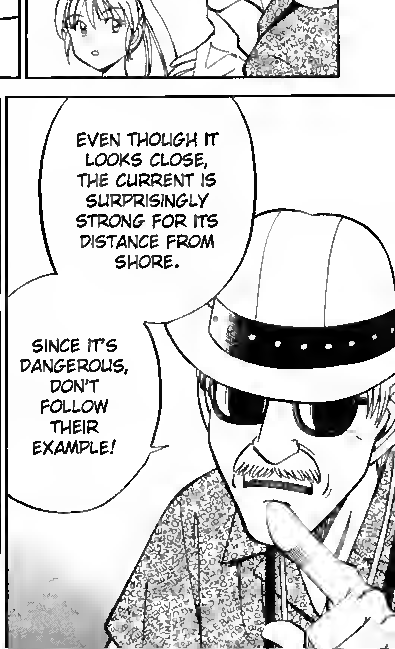
IT'S CALLED HORSE ROCK. IT'S THE KEYSTONE OF THIS AREA.
HORSE ROCK? I WOULD HAVE CALLED IT DOG ROCK.

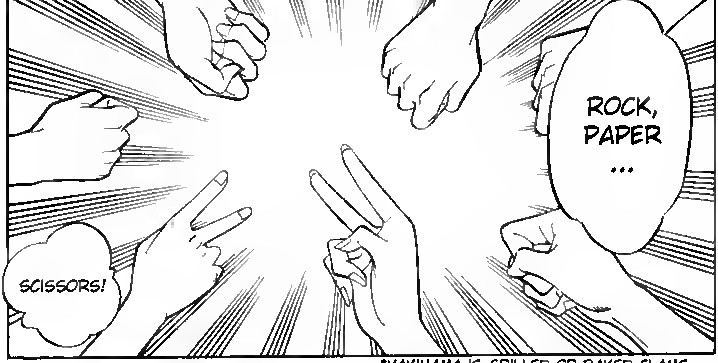

EVERY YEAR, ALL THE TOURISTS WOULD TRY TO SWIM OUT THERE ..
AND ON THE WAY, A LOT OF THEM ALMOST DROWNED


THE WAVES HAVE WORN IT AWAY BEFORE, IT ACTUALLY LOOKED LIKE A MAJESTIC HORSE.
THAT'S BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT

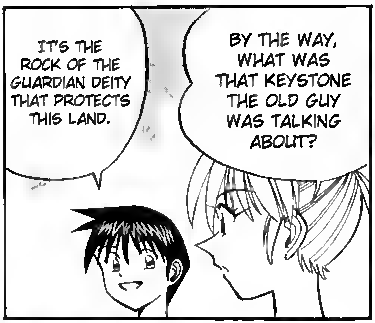
HELP ME SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR FRIENDS

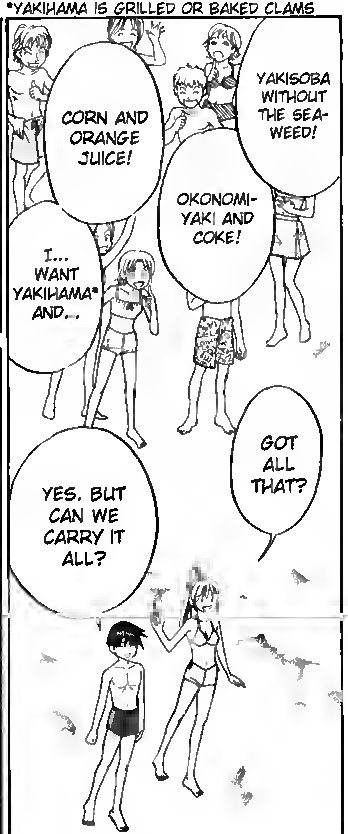

You scuba dive, so it might be OK for you.
SWIMMING THERE AND BACK FROM THE ROCK SEEMS QUITE EASY

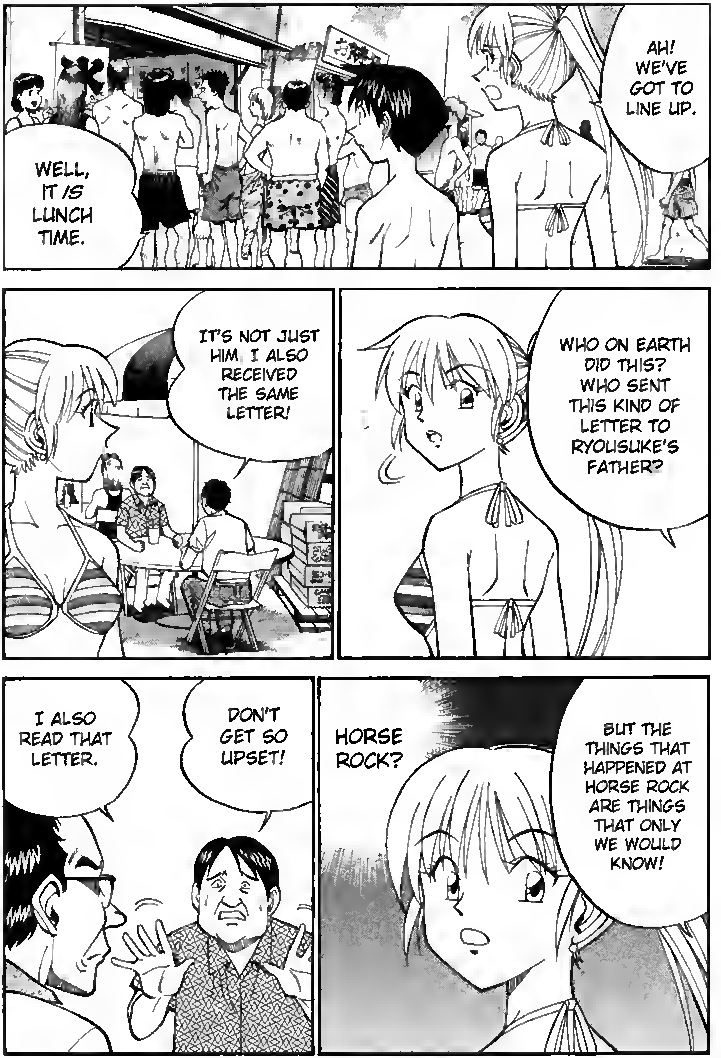

EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS CLOSE, THE CURRENT IS SURPRISINGLY STRONG FOR ITS DISTANCE FROM SHORE.
SINCE IT'S DANGEROUS, DON'T FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE!

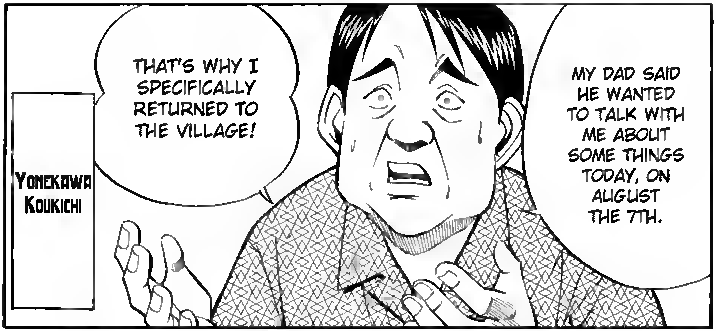


*YAKIHAMA IS GRILLED OR BAKED CLAMS




YAKISOBA WITHOUT THE SEA-WEED!
CORN AND ORANGE JUICE!
OKONOMI-YAKI AND COKE!
I... WANT YAKIHAMA* AND...
GOT ALL THAT?
YES. BUT CAN WE CARRY IT ALL?


AH! WE'VE GOT TO LINE UP.
WELL, IT IS LUNCH TIME.
WHO ON EARTH DID THIS? WHO SENT THIS KIND OF LETTER TO RYOUSUKE'S FATHER?
IT'S NOT JUST HIM. I ALSO RECEIVED THE SAME LETTER!
BUT THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED AT HORSE ROCK ARE THINGS THAT ONLY WE WOULD KNOW!
HORSE ROCK?
DON'T GET SO UPSET!
I ALSO READ THAT LETTER.


MY DAD SAID HE WANTED TO TALK WITH ME ABOUT SOME THINGS TODAY, ON AUGUST THE 7TH.
THAT'S WHY I SPECIFICALLY RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE!
YONEKAWA KOUKICHI

COULD KAZUAKI HAVE RECEIVED THE SAME LETTER?
IKADA SABUROU
YEAH ...

BUT, THAT GUY WORKS OVERTIME ...
SO HE WON'T ARRIVE UNTIL LATE TONIGHT.
SEKIGUCHI KAZUAKI

I WAS FINALLY GOING TO BE PROMOTED FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL VICE PRINCIPAL TO PRINCIPAL THIS YEAR!
I HAVE A FAMILY AND A CAREER!
WHY WOULD ANYONE DIG UP THINGS THAT HAPPENED FORTY YEARS AGO NOW?
DAMN! THIS IS NO JOKE!
WHO ON EARTH SENT THESE LETTERS?
HEY! HEY!
IF I KNEW WHO SENT THIS LETTER, I'D DEFINITELY KILL HIM!
IT WASN'T YOU, WAS IT?! DID YOU SEND THOSE LETTERS!?
H-HEY! STOP IT!
BUT ...
I WANT TO PROTECT MY FAMILY AND CAREER TOO..
I STARTED TO UNDERSTAND RYOUSUKE'S FATHER'S FEELINGS A LITTLE
AFTER I HAD CHILDREN OF MY OWN...

REALLY!
I WOULD NEVER HAVE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THEN!
I HAVE NO CHOICE. IF SUCH A LETTER REACHED HIM, THEN WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN?
UM... IKADA, ARE YOU PLANNING TO SEE RYOUSUKE'S FATHER?
.....
WE CAN'T PRETEND WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ANY MORE.
WELL, WE'D ONLY KNOW IF WE GO.
COME AND HELP ME!
MIZUHARA -SAN!

民宿 狭投
HUH? WE NEED TO SERVE OURSELVES RICE?
WELL, THINK ABOUT HOW LITTLE MONEY WE HAD TO PAY.
ER... UM... WELL...
WHO DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM?
AN ACCIDENT THAT OCCURRED ON THE ROCK FORTY YEARS AGO?
A BOY DROWNED OVER THERE ...
HE WAS NAITOU -SAN'S SON.
FLOWER

BUT NAITOU-SAN'S SON WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO...
A FEW KIDS WENT OUT SWIMMING AT NIGHT TO THE ROCK.
RYOU-SUKE!
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?
HIS BODY WASHED ONTO SHORE THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

OH... OK!
FLOWER
SO, PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING IN THE SEA!
CRAP! KANA WON AGAIN...
HA HA! I GOT RID OF ALL MY CARDS!
LOOKS ARE DECEIVING, AREN'T THEY?
AH! LOOK!
WHEW...
I'M GOING TO THE BATHROOM!
LET'S TAKE A BREAK!
I'M GONNA COOL MY HEAD.

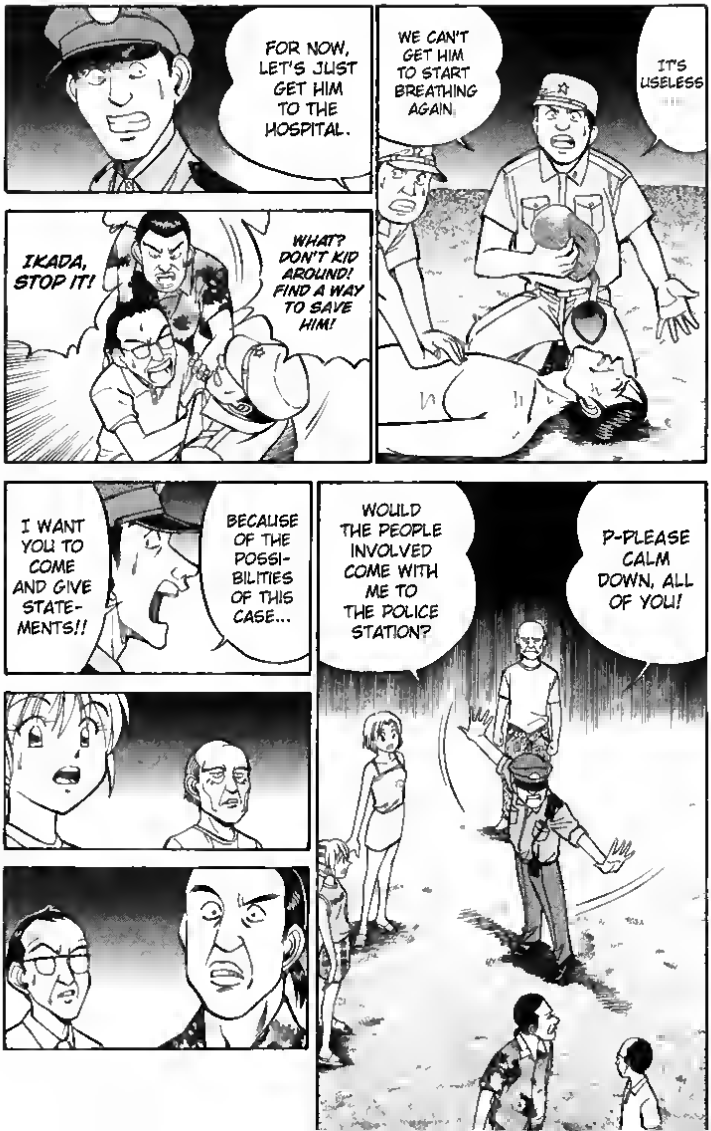
You're whining again...
WHY AM I HAVING THIS KIND OF CONVERSATION WITH A GIRL?
THE MOON'S SHINING DOWN ON THE ROCK!
SO PRETTY!
HMM?
IS SOMETHING FLOATING OVER THERE?
!
THERE! NEXT TO THE ROCK!
COULD IT BE A PERSON?
.....

FLOWER
THERE! QUICKLY, ROW A BIT FURTHER!
YES, OFFICER!
THERE!
ONE, TWO!!

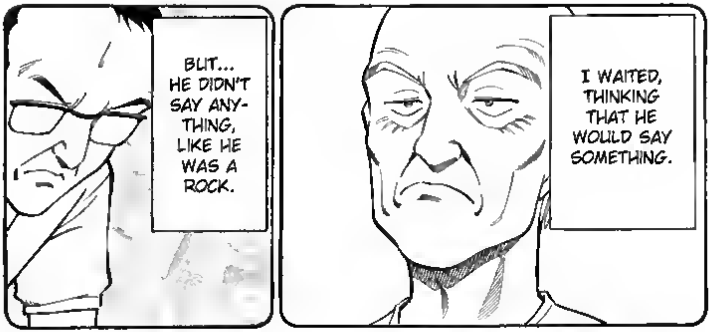
THE FINAL PATROL MADE BY THE LIFEGUARD WAS AT 9 PM, CORRECT?
YES. AND THERE WASN'T ANYONE THERE THEN
AND YOU FOUND THE BODY AT 10 PM ...
BUT... THIS IS A PROBLEM. HE'S NOT A LOCAL VILLAGER, SO WHO DO WE CONTACT?

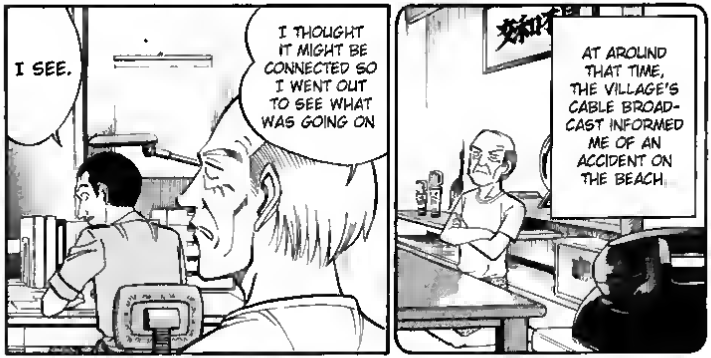
!?
THAT PERSON?
YONE-KAWA!
GOOD EVENING, OFFICER.
OH... YOU'RE ...
YONE-KAWA! ARE YOU OKAY?
HANG IN THERE!

NAITOU RYOUZOU
NAITOU-SAN!
AND THESE TWO ARE...
AS CHILDREN, THEY SWAM WITH MY SON RYOUSUKE WHEN HE DIED.
!!
INCLUDING THE ONE WHO'S CURRENTLY LYING THERE...
ALL THREE OF THEM ARE MY GUESTS.


FOR NOW, LET'S JUST GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.
WE CAN'T GET HIM TO START BREATHING AGAIN.
IT'S USELESS
IKADA, STOP IT!
WHAT? DON'T KID AROUND! FIND A WAY TO SAVE HIM!
I WANT YOU TO COME AND GIVE STATE-MENTS!!
BECAUSE OF THE POSSI-BILITIES OF THIS CASE...
WOULD THE PEOPLE INVOLVED COME WITH ME TO THE POLICE STATION?
P-PLEASE CALM DOWN, ALL OF YOU!

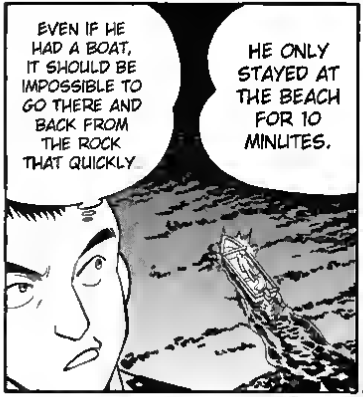
I SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT...
WAITING AT HOME FOR MY GUESTS.
ONE OF THEM WAS GOING TO TELL ME HOW RYOUSUKE REALLY DIED ...
TODAY, IKADA-KUN, SEKIGUCHI -KUN...
AND YONEKAWA -KUN WERE COMING TO MY HOUSE.
SUCH A PROMISE WAS IN THE LETTER I HAD RECEIVED.
THE OTHER TWO DIDN'T COME.
AND YET, THE ONLY ONE WHO CAME WAS IKADA-KUN.


BUT... HE DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING, LIKE HE WAS A ROCK.
I WAITED, THINKING THAT HE WOULD SAY SOMETHING.


I SEE.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE CONNECTED SO I WENT OUT TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON
AT AROUND THAT TIME, THE VILLAGE'S CABLE BROAD-CAST INFORMED ME OF AN ACCIDENT ON THE BEACH

BUT WHEN THE TIME CAME, HE WASN'T THERE.
YONEKAWA AND I ARRANGED TO MEET AT THE BEACH AT 9 PM.
AROUND 9:30.
WHAT TIME DID YOU ARRIVE AT NAITOU-SAN'S HOUSE?

EVEN THEN, HE DIDN'T COME.
SO I DECIDED TO GO AHEAD OF HIM.


EVEN IF HE HAD A BOAT, IT SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GO THERE AND BACK FROM THE ROCK THAT QUICKLY.
HE ONLY STAYED AT THE BEACH FOR 10 MINUTES.

AND HE ARRIVED AT NAITOU-SAN'S HOUSE AT 9:30.
HMM... WALKING FROM THE BEACH TO NAITOU-SAN'S HOUSE TAKES AROUND 20 MINUTES...

DON'T SEEM HAVE ANY CONNECTION TO THIS INCIDENT.
IN THAT CASE, THESE TWO

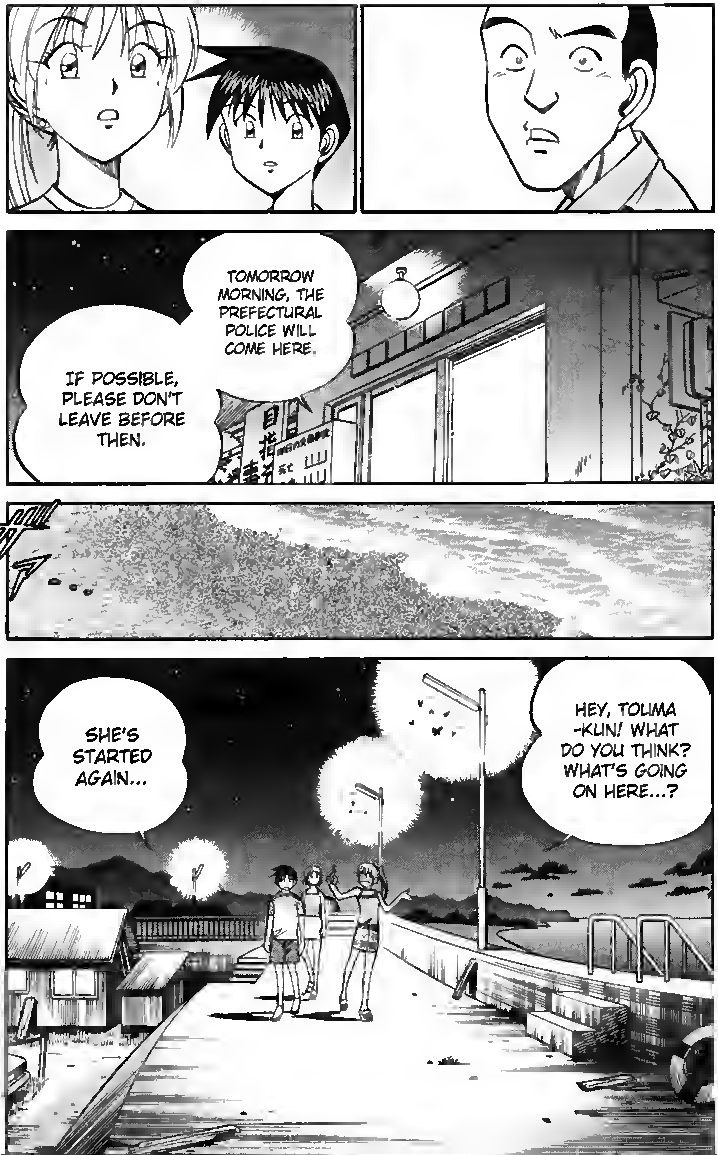
I ARRIVED AT THE VILLAGE AFTER 7 PM.

UM... WHAT ABOUT YOU?

BUT THEY WERE BOTH OUT.
I WORKED OVERTIME, SO I WAS A LITTLE LATER THAN THE OTHER TWO. I WENT TO THE HOTEL WHERE WE WERE GOING TO MEET.
HOTEL
THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE I COULD DO BUT WAIT FOR THEM IN MY ROOM
SEKIGUCHI! COME TO THE BEACH!
THEN, AFTER 10 PM, IKADA CALLED ME FROM HIS CELL...
HUH?
HMM ...
WHEN I GOT THERE, I SAW WHAT HAPPENED...

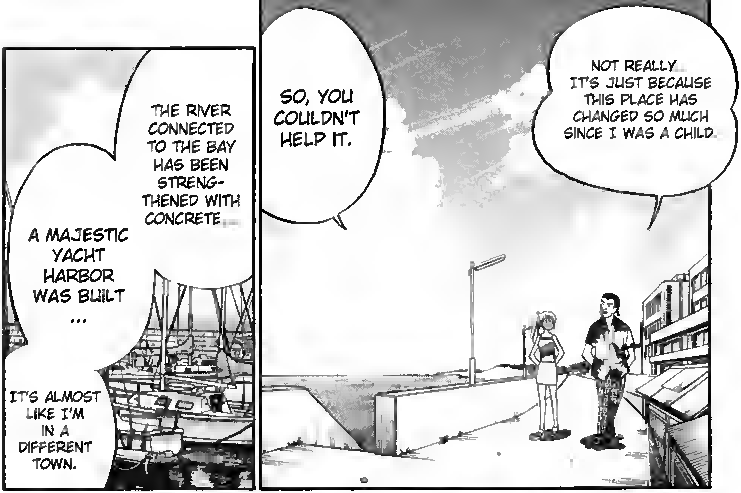
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT! I DON'T KNOW WHERE RYOUSUKE'S HOUSE IS.
WHY DID YOU WAIT AT THE HOTEL INSTEAD OF GOING DIRECTLY TO NAITOU-SAN'S HOUSE?
WASN'T THE PLAN TO MEET UP THERE?
COULDN'T HE HAVE CALLED YOU USING HIS CELL PHONE?
BUT IKADA -SAN COULD HAVE TOLD YOU WHERE IT WAS
OH, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT SEKIGUCHI DIDN'T KNOW WHERE RYOUSUKE'S HOUSE WAS.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE WENT THERE TO DIE...
BUT YONEKAWA... WHY DID THAT GUY GO TO THE ROCK?

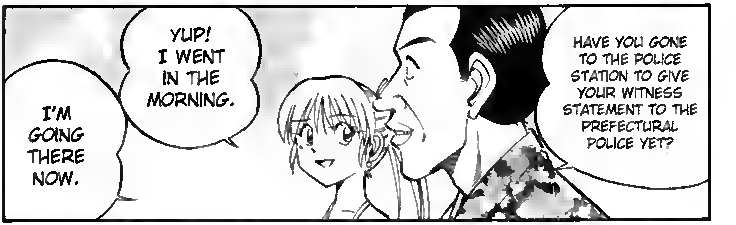
WE ALL RECEIVED A STRANGE LETTER, TELLING US THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE ACCIDENT FORTY YEARS AGO...
WOULD YOU KNOW IF HE WAS HAVING SUICIDAL THOUGHTS?
HMPH.
HE WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT THAT...
I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS OF WHY THE LETTER WAS SENT TO ME...
犯人
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF RYOUSUKE'S DEATH.
BUT... BEFORE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, I WANT THEM TO TELL ME.
HOW DID RYOUSUKE REALLY DIE?!

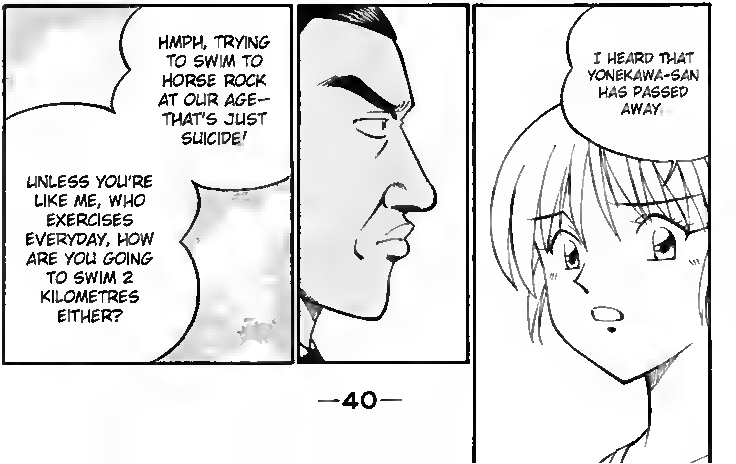

TOMORROW MORNING, THE PREFECTURAL POLICE WILL COME HERE.
IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE DON'T LEAVE BEFORE THEN.
SHE'S STARTED AGAIN...
HEY, TOUMA -KUN! WHAT DO YOU THINK? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?

BOTH IKADA AND SEKIGUCHI SEEM TO THINK...
THIS IS REALLY STRANGE THOUGH!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING! I CAN'T CONCLUDE ANYTHING FROM ONLY OBSERVING.
MIZUHARA -SAN, WE'RE NOT GODS!
HAH ...
MAYBE IT'S RELATED TO YONEKAWA NEARLY DROWNING TODAY...
THAT THERE IS SOME HIDDEN TRUTH BEHIND THE ACCIDENT FORTY YEARS AGO.
WE NEED TO BE PREPARED TO PUT IN A LOT OF EFFORT. THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
THEREFORE, BEFORE WE KNOW THE TRUTH AND BEFORE WE ACCEPT IT ...
FLOWER

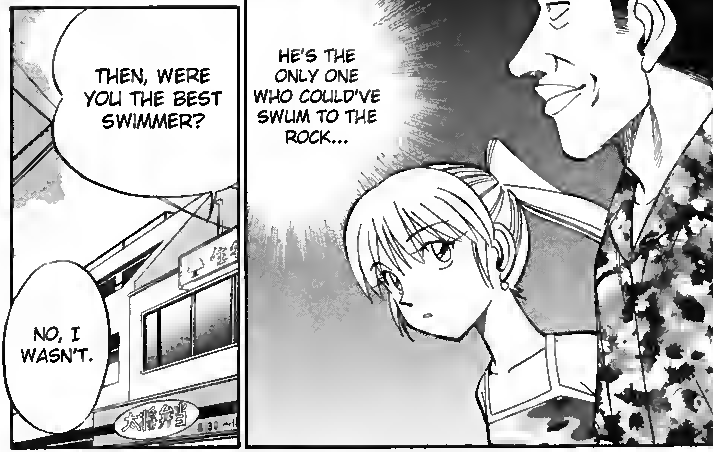
!
24
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING? YOU SEEM TO BE LOOKING AROUND A LOT
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOU WERE AT THE POLICE STATION WITH US—
大黒

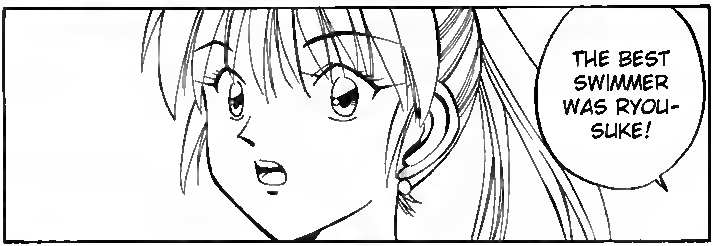

NOT REALLY... IT'S JUST BECAUSE THIS PLACE HAS CHANGED SO MUCH SINCE I WAS A CHILD.
SO, YOU COULDN'T HELP IT.
THE RIVER CONNECTED TO THE BAY HAS BEEN STRENG-THENED WITH CONCRETE...
A MAJESTIC YACHT HARBOR WAS BUILT ...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M IN A DIFFERENT TOWN.

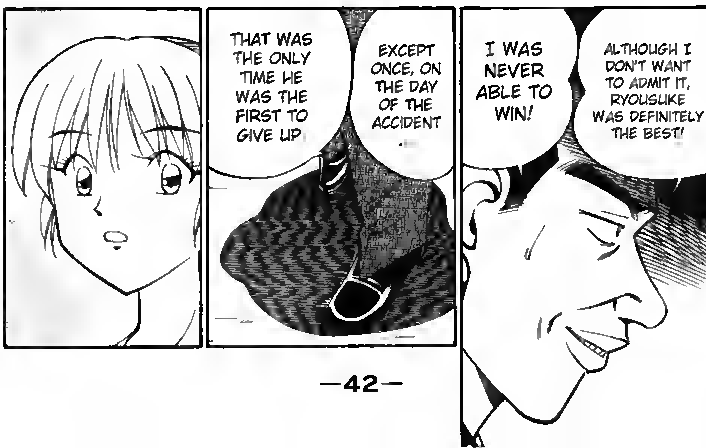

HAVE YOU GONE TO THE POLICE STATION TO GIVE YOUR WITNESS STATEMENT TO THE PREFECTURAL POLICE YET?
YUP! I WENT IN THE MORNING.
I'M GOING THERE NOW.


I HEARD THAT YONEKAWA-SAN HAS PASSED AWAY.
HMPH, TRYING TO SWIM TO HORSE ROCK AT OUR AGE— THAT'S JUST SUICIDE!
UNLESS YOU'RE LIKE ME, WHO EXERCISES EVERYDAY, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO SWIM 2 KILOMETRES EITHER?

I RECENTLY OPENED MY OWN DESIGN COMPANY IN TOKYO.
I SIT IN FRONT OF MY DESK EVERYDAY.
REALLY?
I TAKE MY FAMILY TO THE POOL, AND ON WEEKENDS, WE GO TO YOKOHAMA'S BEACH.
BUT... MAYBE BECAUSE I GREW UP SURROUNDED BY THE BEACH'S NATURAL SCENERY...
NO WAY, NO WAY! YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM!
WHAT ABOUT IKADA-SAN THEN?
THEN AGAIN, I THINK I MIGHT DIE IF I TRIED TO SWIM THAT 2 KILOMETRES LIKE I DID 40 YEARS AGO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE BECAME A VICE PRINCIPAL TEACHING LITTLE KIDS.
AND PLUS, OUT OF ALL OF US, HE WAS THE WORST SWIMMER!
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR YONEKAWA!


HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD'VE SWUM TO THE ROCK...
THEN, WERE YOU THE BEST SWIMMER?
NO, I WASN'T.


THE BEST SWIMMER WAS RYOU-SUKE!

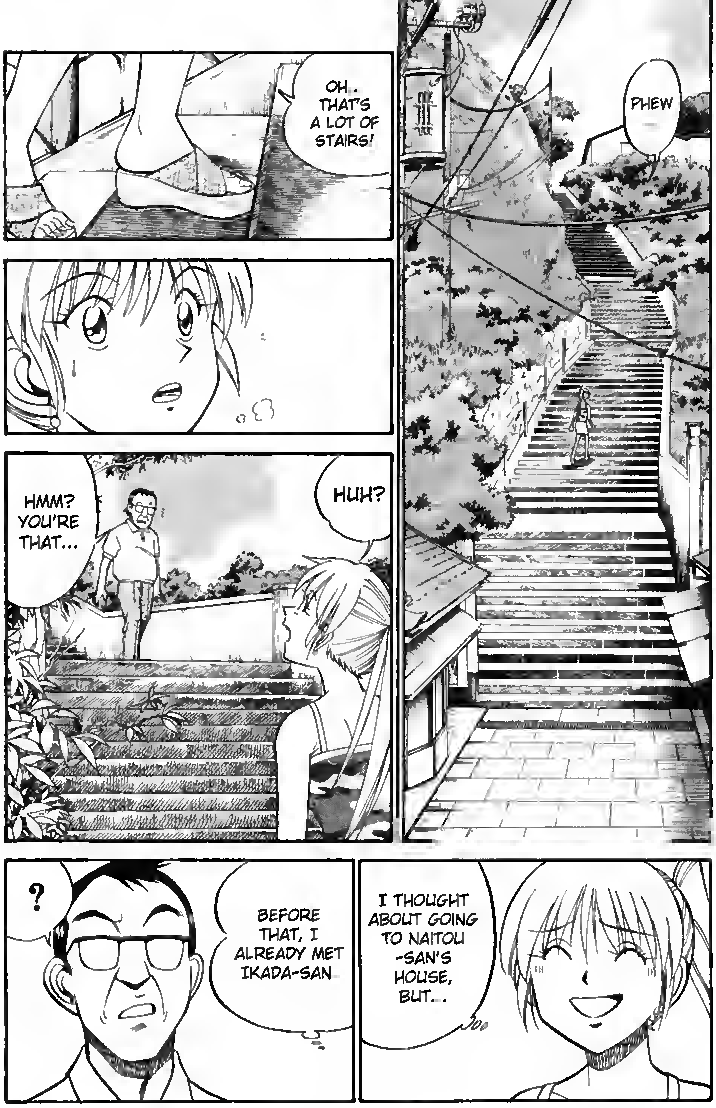

THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME HE WAS THE FIRST TO GIVE UP
EXCEPT ONCE, ON THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT
I WAS NEVER ABLE TO WIN!
ALTHOUGH I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT, RYOUSUKE WAS DEFINITELY THE BEST!

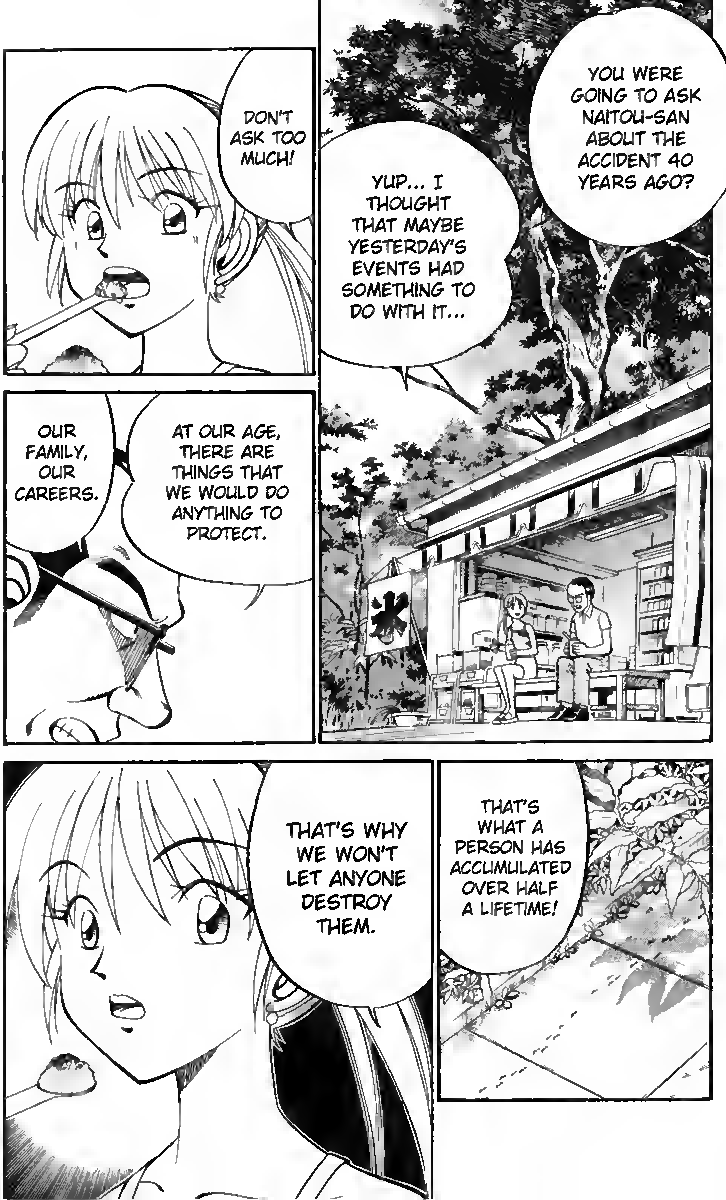
WHAT?
WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED 40 YEARS AGO?
THE THREE OF YOU RECEIVED THE SAME LETTER, AND HAVE GATHERED IN YOUR HOMETOWN.
THE LETTER SAID THAT SOMEONE WAS GOING TO TELL RYOUSUKE'S FATHER THE TRUTH...
I-I DON'T KNOW!
THEN, WHO DO YOU THINK WROTE THE LETTER?
IT'S NOTHING... THAT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT.
THAT LETTER IS SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A JOKE.
ANYWAY, PLEASE MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

THIS IS WHERE THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER MEETS THE BAY...
.....
WHO WAS IT?! WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
DISCHARGE WARNING
UPSTREAM OF THE DAM

THIS IS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT TO CLEAN UP.
WARNING No ILLEGAL DOCKING!!
HMM?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
WHO WOULD HAVE PULLED THIS PRANK?
BUT HARDLY ANYONE COMES TO THIS AREA.
HAVE A LOOK FOR YOUR-SELF.
AND PUT ROCKS IN IT UNTIL IT SANK.
SOMEONE DRILLED A HOLE IN THE BOAT ...

PERHAPS SOMEONE WANTED TO STAND UP FOR THE TOWN.
EVER SINCE THIS TOWN BECAME A RECREATION SPOT, THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER HAS BEEN FULL OF PRIVATE BOATS WHICH DOCK HERE ILLEGALLY.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE TELL THEM TO STOP, THEY STILL DO IT.
THE BOATS LEFT HERE ARE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH.
THERE ARE TWO MORE DAMAGED BOATS OVER THERE!


PHEW
OH.. THAT'S A LOT OF STAIRS!
HUH?
HMM? YOU'RE THAT...
I THOUGHT ABOUT GOING TO NAITOU -SAN'S HOUSE, BUT...
BEFORE THAT, I ALREADY MET IKADA-SAN
?


YOU WERE GOING TO ASK NAITOU-SAN ABOUT THE ACCIDENT 40 YEARS AGO?
YUP... I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE YESTERDAY'S EVENTS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT...
DON'T ASK TOO MUCH!
AT OUR AGE, THERE ARE THINGS THAT WE WOULD DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT.
OUR FAMILY, OUR CAREERS.
THAT'S WHAT A PERSON HAS ACCUMULATED OVER HALF A LIFETIME!
THAT'S WHY WE WON'T LET ANYONE DESTROY THEM.

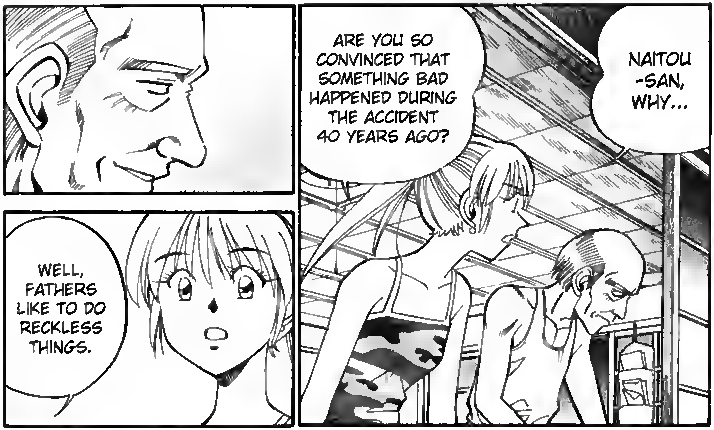
WHY WOULD ANYONE BRING UP THESE OLD WOUNDS FROM 40 YEARS AGO NOW?
EVEN IF SOMEONE MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCIDENT...
WHAT'S THE POINT OF REVEALING THE TRUTH?
BUT I WANT TO FORGET ALL THIS ALREADY!
HONESTLY, RYOUSUKE'S FATHER'S ATTITUDE...
MAKES ME VERY UPSET.
RYOUSUKE WAS MY BEST FRIEND!
WE ALWAYS PLAYED TOGETHER...
AND HE ALWAYS TOOK CARE OF ME.

OH ...
CLINK
SO YOU MET IKADA-KUN, HUH?
WHOOSH
HE WAS HERE A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
HE WAS STIFF AS A ROCK AGAIN..
THEN HE SAID THAT THE POLICE STATION WAS CALLING HIM AND LEFT.
CLICK
I'M VERY SORRY. . YOU'VE BEEN SWEPT UP INTO SOMETHING YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH...
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT.

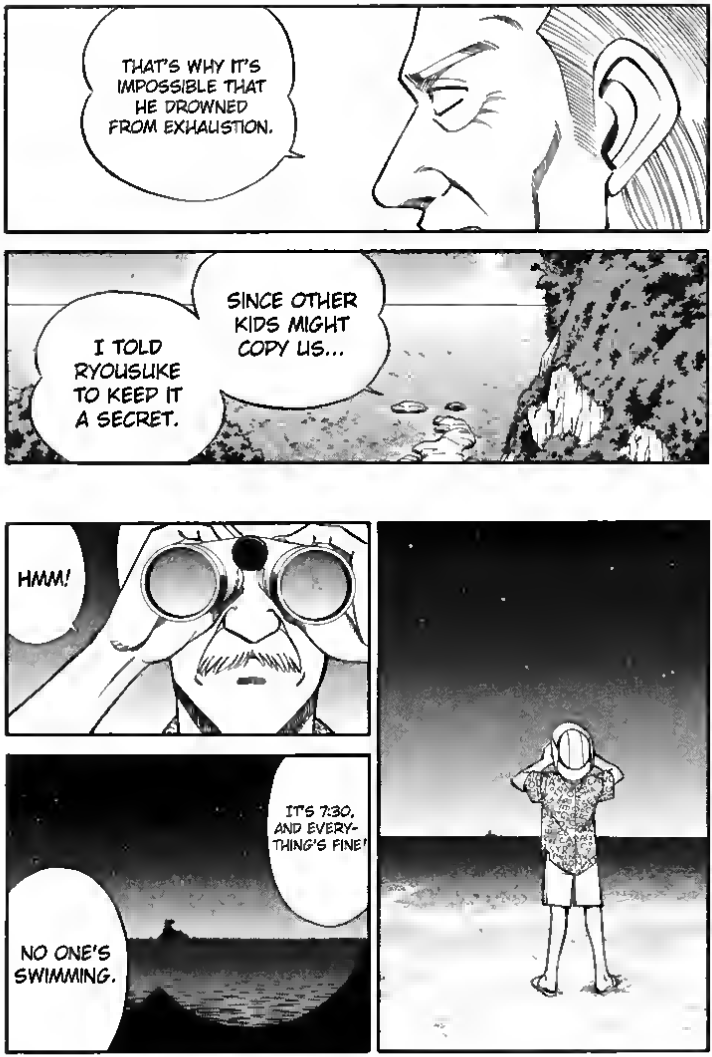
I...
RAISED RYOUSUKE BY MYSELF. HE WAS MY TREASURE.
THAT FEELING I GOT WHEN I TOUCHED HIS ICE-COLD CORPSE... STILL LINGERS ON MY HANDS.
WHILE I HELD RYOUSUKE, THE THREE OF THEM...
WERE STANDING BEHIND ME.
I WANTED TO GIVE THEM A GOOD BEATING.
I WANTED TO BLAME THEM, TO ASK THEM "WHAT HAPPENED!?"
BUT... I DIDN'T!!

AFTER ALL, THEIR EYES WERE FULL OF FEAR AND DISBELIEF.
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! IT WAS SOMETHING NO ONE FORESAW. I ACCEPTED THAT.
WHAT GOOD WOULD COME OUT OF BLAMING THEM?
AND DID I REALLY WANT THESE KIDS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY?
BUT, THAT WAS A MISTAKE!
IT CAUSED ME FORTY YEARS OF SUFFERING.
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING!

ISN'T IT CRAZY TO NOT KNOW *WHY* YOU LOST A TREASURE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN YOUR LIFE?
THAT'S SOMETHING THAT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN!!
TOMORROW IS THE ANNI-VERSARY OF RYOUSUKE'S DEATH.
EVERY YEAR ON THAT DAY, I WOULD PLACE A FLOWER OFFERING ON THE HEAD OF HORSE ROCK.
THIS WILL BE THE FORTIETH TIME.
.....


NAITOU -SAN, WHY...
ARE YOU SO CONVINCED THAT SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED DURING THE ACCIDENT 40 YEARS AGO?
WELL, FATHERS LIKE TO DO RECKLESS THINGS.

RYOUSUKE AND I OFTEN SWAM AT NIGHT...
ALL THE WAY TO HORSE ROCK.


THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT HE DROWNED FROM EXHAUSTION.
SINCE OTHER KIDS MIGHT COPY US...
I TOLD RYOUSUKE TO KEEP IT A SECRET.
HMM!
IT'S 7:30, AND EVERYTHING'S FINE!
NO ONE'S SWIMMING.

GREAT! EVERYTHING'S FINE HERE AS WELL
NEXT IS THE CHANGE ROOMS!
NO ONE'S HERE EITHER!
HUH?! THESE CLOTHES ...
AH!!

NO WAY! I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE!
民宿 秋投
HEY! KANA!
WELL ...
HASN'T SOMEONE SEEN IT?
MAYBE SHE FOUGHT WITH AN ELEPHANT?
EUGH... I'M JUST A BIT TIRED ...
WHY ARE YOU SO WORN OUT?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
ANYWAY, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED AROUND HERE TODAY.
UM... EXCUSE ME.
YOUR FINAL SET OF INSTRUCTIONS WAS SO TOUGH!
HIS CLOTHES ARE STILL IN THE CHANGING ROOM.
WHAT HAP-PENED?
HAS A PERSON NAMED SEKIGUCHI COME HERE?
NO.
WHAT ABOUT THE SHOPPING DISTRICT?
BUT THERE'S NO ONE IN THE SEA...
NO, HE ISN'T THERE EITHER.

RUMOR?
MAYBE THAT RUMOR IS TRUE
HEY, WASN'T THAT GUY A FRIEND OF YONEKAWA-SAN, WHO DIED YESTERDAY?
!!
THE RUMOR THAT RYOUSUKE-KUN'S SPIRIT IS DRAGGING HIS FRIENDS INTO THE SEA, ONE BY ONE...
SEKI-
-GUCHI-
-SAAAN!
HEEEEY!
WHAT?! I'M GOING TO THE POLICE STATION!

HEEEY!
IF YOU HEAR US, PLEASE REPLY!!
IT'S TOO DARK! I CAN'T SEE A THING!
IT'S NO GOOD!
DO YOU SEE ANY-THING?!
EVERYONE, START OVER AND SEARCH AGAIN!
NO ...
WE NEED TO WAIT UNTIL MORNING!
HUH?
WHY IS SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENING AGAIN?

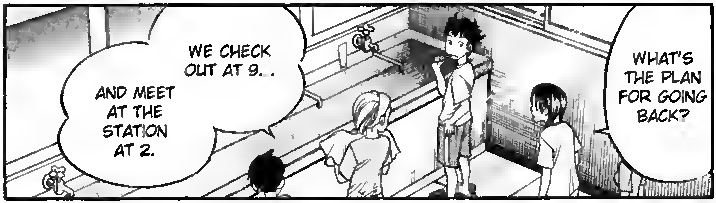
AAAH!!
NAITOU -SAN!! DON'T DO IT!!
!!

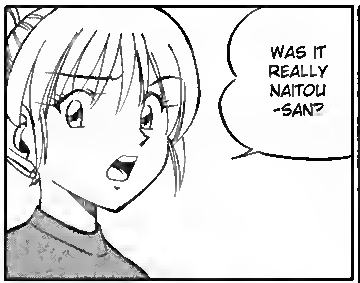
AAAH !!
DROP THE SICKLE !!
STOP !!
DON'T STOP ME!!
THE LAST ONE? COULD IT BE...!?
EEP!
HE'S THE LAST ONE!!

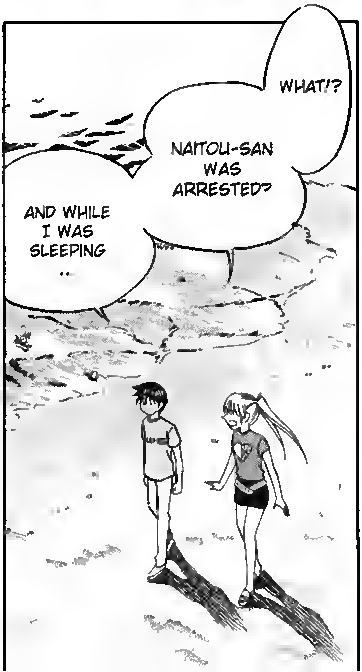
NAITOU-SAN! COULD IT BE YOU!?
ゲィ
SPLASH
DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO YONEKAWA -SAN AND SEKIGUCHI -SAN!?
LET GO OF ME, YOU IDIOT!
EEK ...

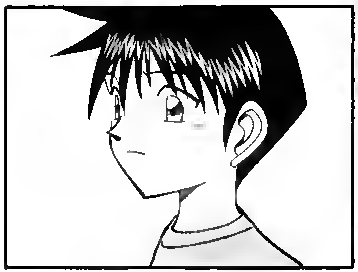
.....
I ALREADY
HAVE
NOTHING

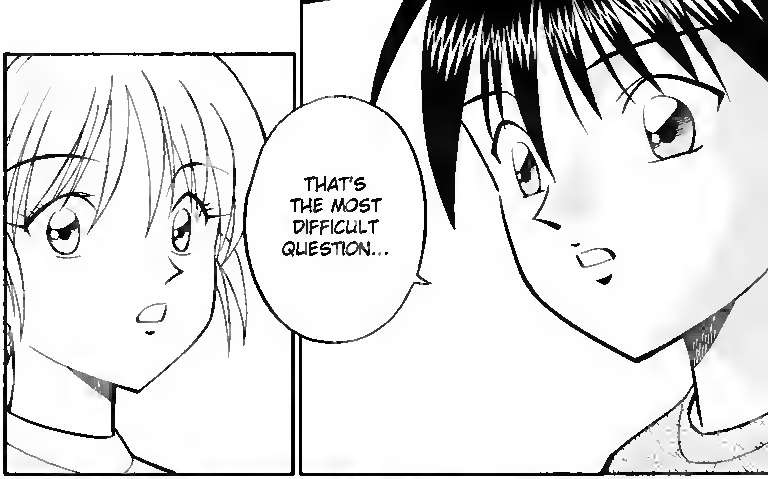
MORNING!
民宿 朴投

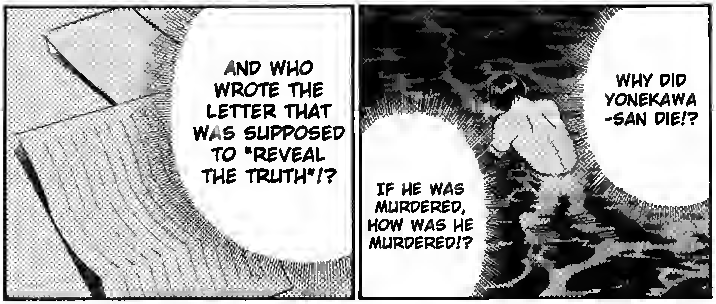

WE CHECK OUT AT 9. .
AND MEET AT THE STATION AT 2.
WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR GOING BACK?

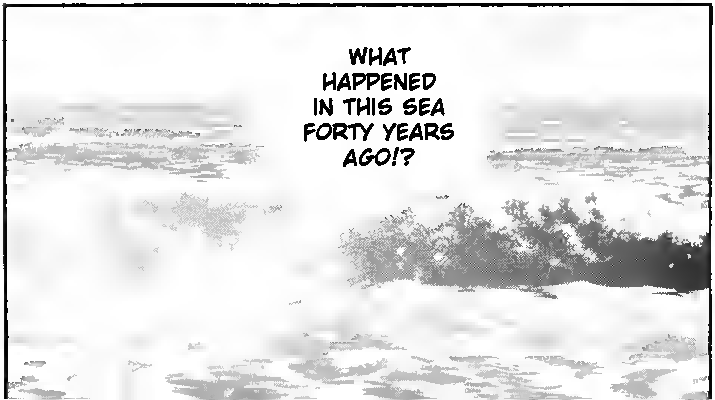

WAS IT REALLY NAITOU -SAN?

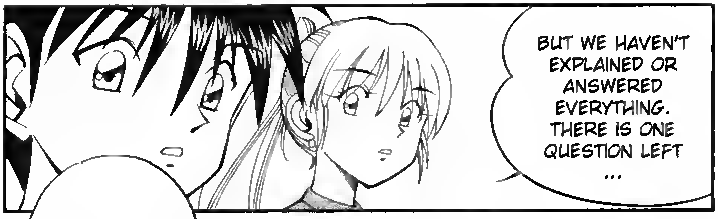

WHAT!?
NAITOU-SAN WAS ARRESTED?
AND WHILE I WAS SLEEPING ..

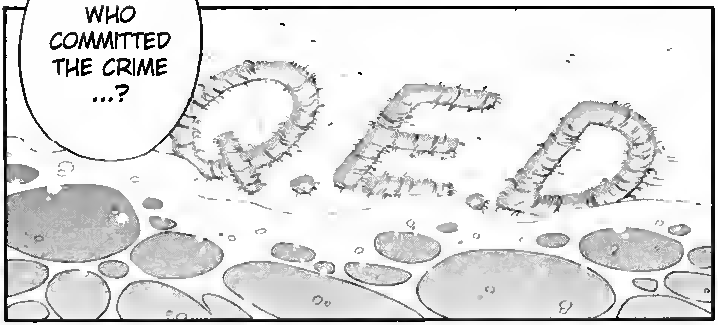


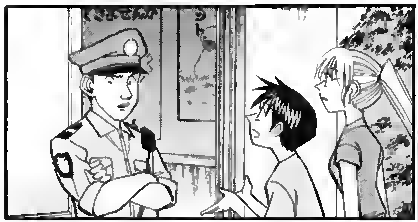

THAT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT QUESTION...


AND WHO WROTE THE LETTER THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO "REVEAL THE TRUTH"!?
IF HE WAS MURDERED, HOW WAS HE MURDERED!?
WHY DID YONEKAWA -SAN DIE!?


WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS SEA FORTY YEARS AGO!?


BUT WE HAVEN'T EXPLAINED OR ANSWERED EVERYTHING. THERE IS ONE QUESTION LEFT ...


WHO COMMITTED THE CRIME ...?
END



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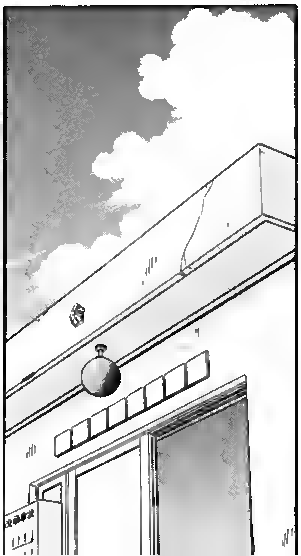
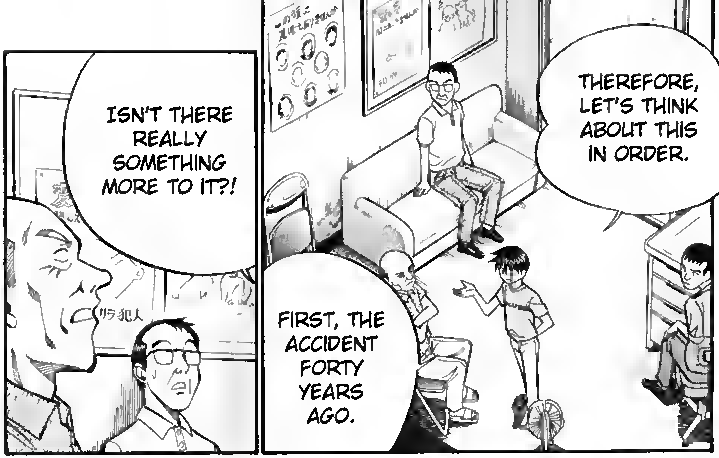
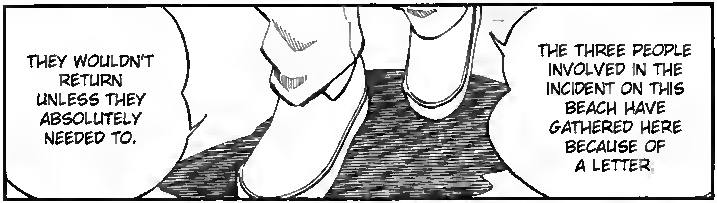


EXCUSE ME!
ギロ
ヒソ
AH... OFFICER, HAS SEKIGUCHI REALLY BEEN FOUND?
YES.
...?
ANYWAY, PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.

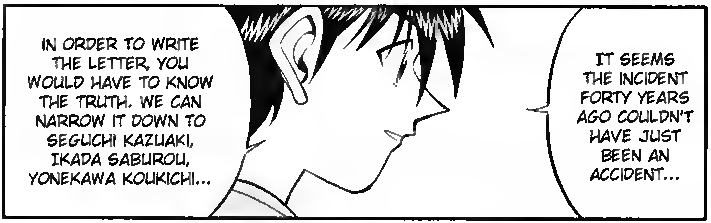
スッ
CAP
SO... IF YOU WOULD CONTINUE WITH WHAT YOU WERE SAYING...
TWO NIGHTS AGO, YONEKAWA KOUKICHI-SAN DIED IN THE SEA.
THAT IS RELATED TO AN ACCIDENT THAT IS CONNECTED TO EVERYONE HERE.
FORTY YEARS AGO, A BOY DROWNED AT HORSE ROCK. .
AND THE MYSTERY OF THE TRUTH THAT WAS GOING TO BE TOLD IN THAT LETTER..
IS RELE-VANT TO EVERYONE HERE.
NOW THESE FACTORS HAVE COMBINED, LIKE A COMPLEX, CONVOLUTED MIST, TO SHROUD THE TRUTH.

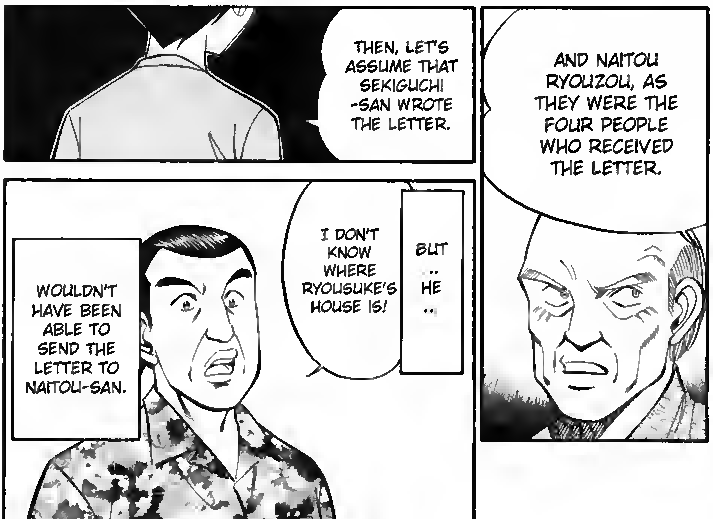

ISN'T THERE REALLY SOMETHING MORE TO IT?!
FIRST, THE ACCIDENT FORTY YEARS AGO.
THEREFORE, LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS IN ORDER.


THEY WOULDN'T RETURN UNLESS THEY ABSOLUTELY NEEDED TO.
THE THREE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT ON THIS BEACH HAVE GATHERED HERE BECAUSE OF A LETTER.

NEXT, WHO SENT THE LETTER?
THUS, THE CONCLU-SION IS SIMPLE...
SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENED DURING THE ACCIDENT.

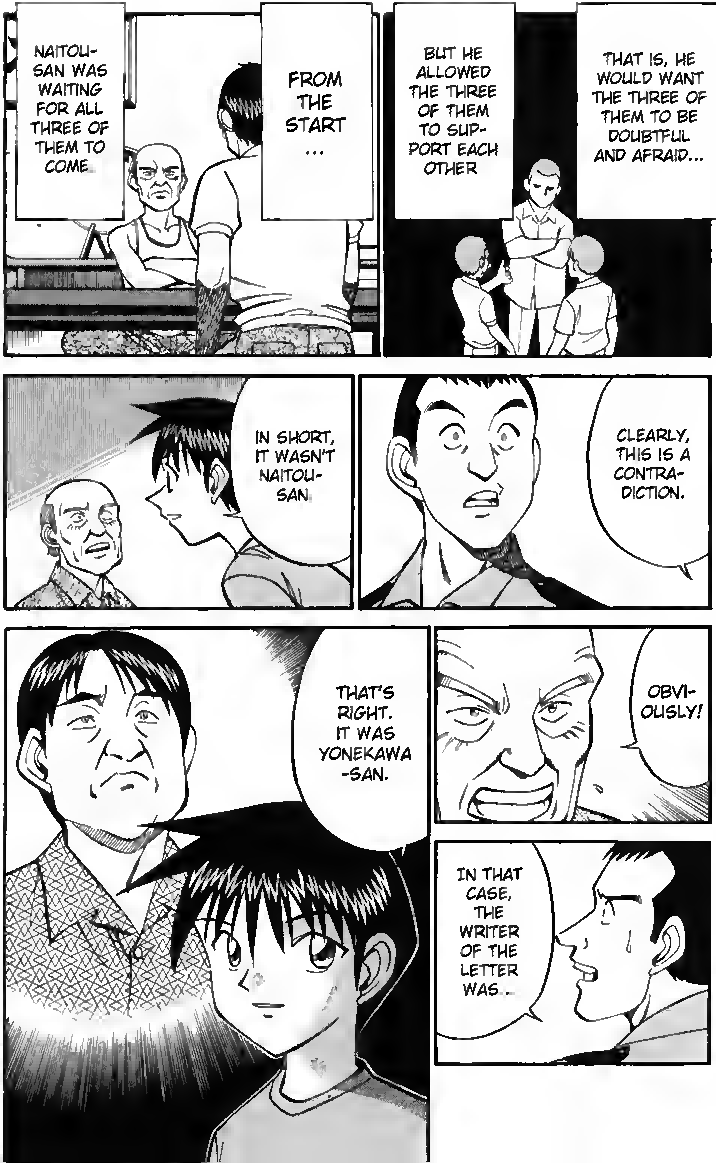
THERE ARE TWO STRANGE POINTS IN THIS PROBLEMATIC LETTER
FIRST, IT WAS SENT ANONYMOUSLY. SECOND, IT WAS SENT TO ALL FOUR PEOPLE INVOLVED!


IT SEEMS THE INCIDENT FORTY YEARS AGO COULDN'T HAVE JUST BEEN AN ACCIDENT...
IN ORDER TO WRITE THE LETTER, YOU WOULD HAVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH. WE CAN NARROW IT DOWN TO SEGUCHI KAZUAKI, IKADA SABUROU, YONEKAWA KOUKICHI...


THEN, LET'S ASSUME THAT SEKIGUCHI -SAN WROTE THE LETTER.
AND NAITOU RYOUZOU, AS THEY WERE THE FOUR PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED THE LETTER.
BUT .. HE ..
I DON'T KNOW WHERE RYOUSUKE'S HOUSE IS!
WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEND THE LETTER TO NAITOU-SAN.

HE COULD HAVE GONE THERE TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH, AS STATED IN THE LETTER.
IF SEKIGUCHI-SAN REALLY KNEW WHERE NAITOU-SAN LIVED...
BUT HE DIDN'T.
BUT MAYBE SEKIGUCHI -SAN LIED?
RIGHT.
THEN, WAS IT IKADA -SAN?
THEREFORE, SEKIGUCHI-SAN DIDN'T WRITE THE LETTER.
SO, IT WASN'T IKADA -SAN EITHER.
AND DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING.
BUT IKADA-SAN WENT TO NAITOU'S HOUSE TWICE...
THAT CONTRADICTS THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER.

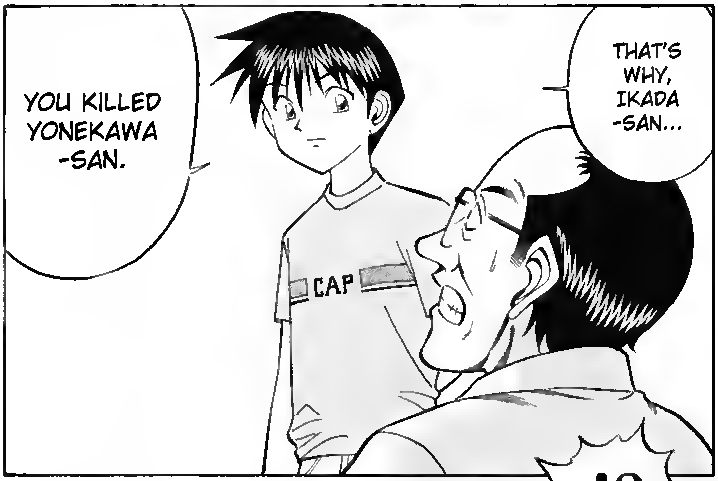
WOULDN'T IT BE GOOD IF HE GOT THE TRUTH OUT OF AT LEAST ONE OF THEM?
HE SENT AN ANONYMOUS LETTER TO STRIKE FEAR IN THE THREE OF THEM.
THEN, WAS IT NAITOU -SAN?
AND WHY IT WAS SENT ANONY-MOUSLY!
THIS EXPLAINS WHY THE LETTER WAS SENT TO ALL FOUR PEOPLE...
BUT THAT METHOD RELIES ON ONE IMPORTANT POINT...
AND THAT IS TO PREVENT THE THREE OF THEM MEETING BEFOREHAND TO COMPARE AND CONFIRM THE TRUTH.
...AT FIRST, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
HUH? SO IT WAS NAITOU -SAN?

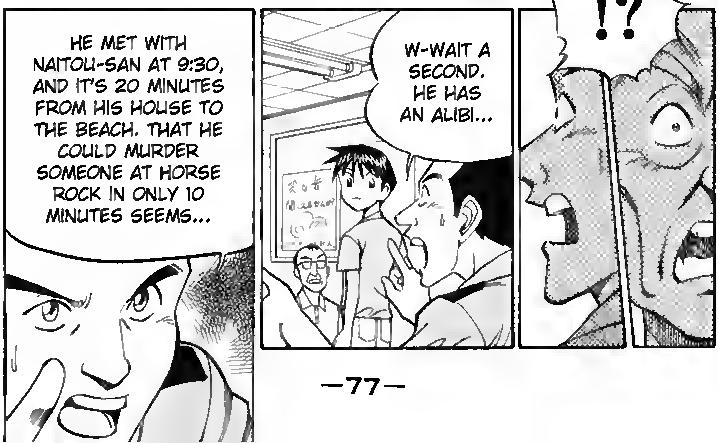

NAITOU-SAN WAS WAITING FOR ALL THREE OF THEM TO COME.
FROM THE START ...
BUT HE ALLOWED THE THREE OF THEM TO SUP-PORT EACH OTHER
THAT IS, HE WOULD WANT THE THREE OF THEM TO BE DOUBTFUL AND AFRAID...
IN SHORT, IT WASN'T NAITOU-SAN.
CLEARLY, THIS IS A CONTRA-DICTION.
THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS YONEKAWA -SAN.
OBVI-OUSLY!
IN THAT CASE, THE WRITER OF THE LETTER WAS..

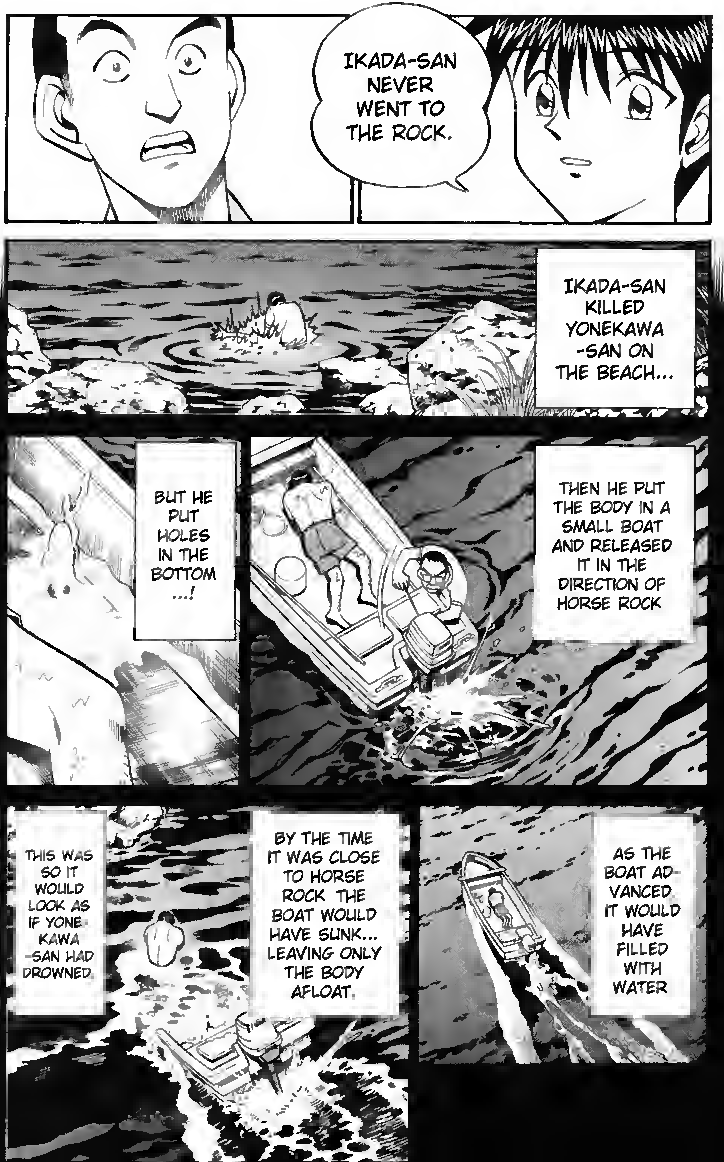
AND WHY WOULD HE SEND IT TO EVERYONE?
BUT WHY WOULD HE SEND IT ANONY-MOUSLY?
!!
THE REASON WAS IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH IKADA-SAN.
I WOULD NEVER HAVE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THEN!
THUS, HE ALSO WROTE TO HIMSELF AND SENT THE LETTER TO EVERYONE.
I DON'T WANT TO DO IT. I'LL MAKE *SOMEONE ELSE* CONFESS THE TRUTH.
THERE-FORE, THIS IS WHAT YONEKA-WA-SAN THOUGHT:

IN THAT CASE, IS THE MURDERER REALLY NAITOU -SAN, LIKE THE POLICE SUSPECT?
YONEKAWA -SAN HAS ALREADY DIED.
BUT, UNFORTU-NATELY ...
BUT NAITOU-SAN HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW...
THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ACCIDENT!
DIDN'T HE MEAN "HE'S THE LAST WITNESS"?
HE'S THE LAST ONE!
CLEARLY, THERE'S SOME DARK TRUTH BURIED THERE.
WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN THE LETTER WAS THAT THE HIDDEN TRUTH WOULD BE REVEALED. IT WAS SENT ANONYMOUSLY, TO SHAKE THE CULPRIT.

A TRUTH THAT ABSOLUTELY CANNOT BE REVEALED!
A TRUTH THAT, ONCE KNOWN, WOULD CAUSE HIM TO LOSE EVERYTHING HE HAS.

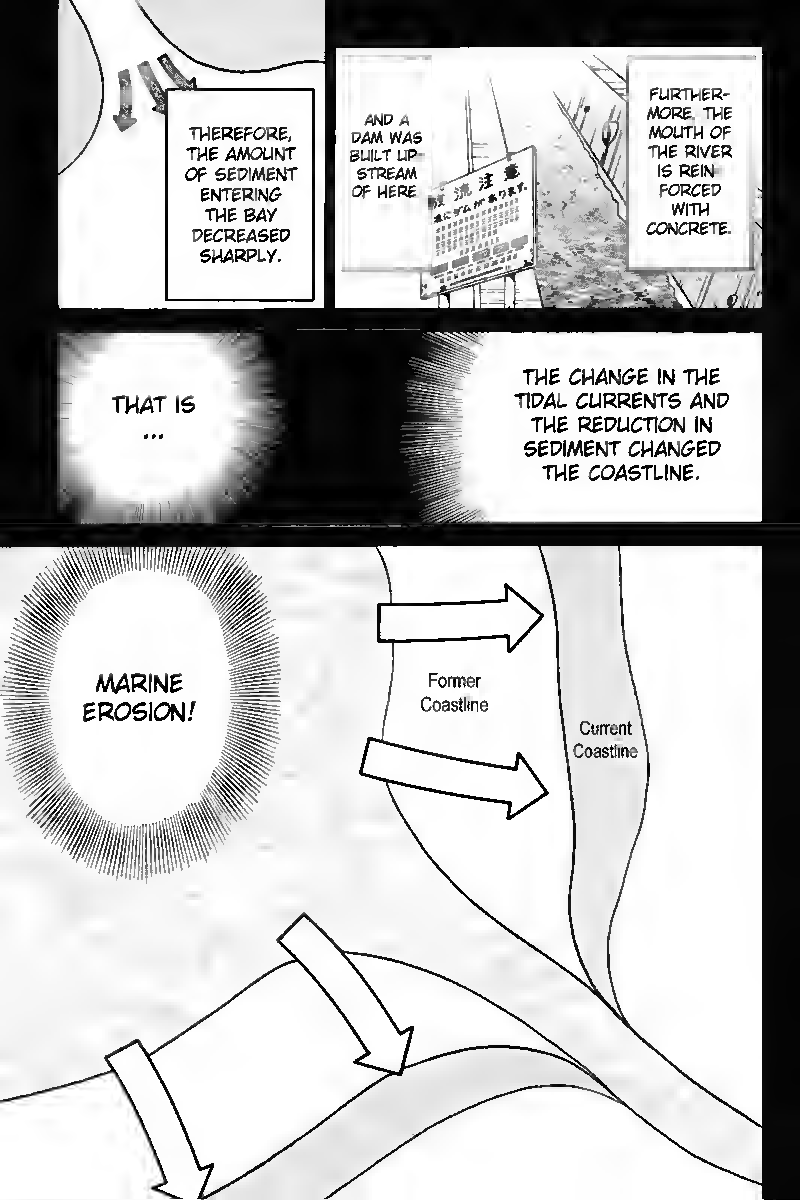

YOU KILLED YONEKAWA -SAN.
THAT'S WHY, IKADA -SAN...
CAP

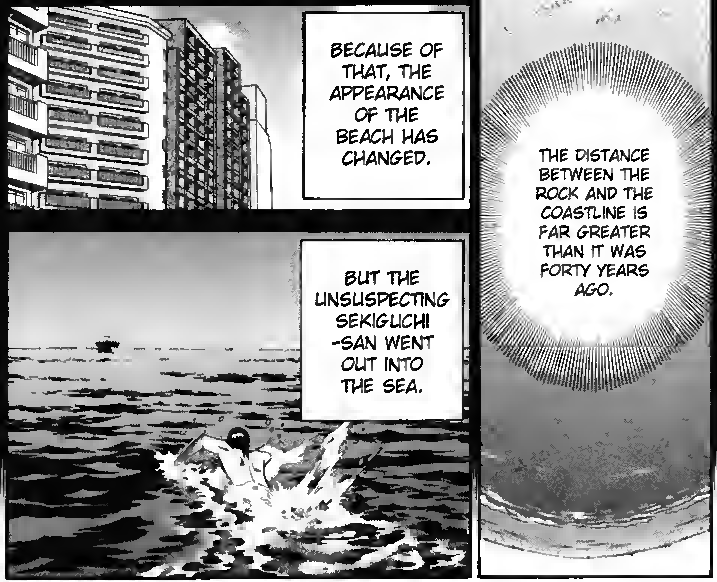

HE MET WITH NAITOU-SAN AT 9:30, AND IT'S 20 MINUTES FROM HIS HOUSE TO THE BEACH. THAT HE COULD MURDER SOMEONE AT HORSE ROCK IN ONLY 10 MINUTES SEEMS...
W-WAIT A SECOND. HE HAS AN ALIBI...
!?

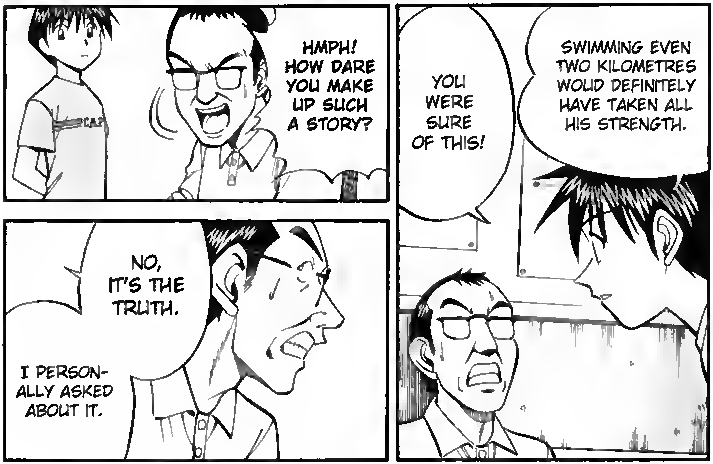

IKADA-SAN NEVER WENT TO THE ROCK.
IKADA-SAN KILLED YONEKAWA -SAN ON THE BEACH...
BUT HE PUT HOLES IN THE BOTTOM ...!
THEN HE PUT THE BODY IN A SMALL BOAT AND RELEASED IT IN THE DIRECTION OF HORSE ROCK
THIS WAS SO IT WOULD LOOK AS IF YONE-KAWA -SAN HAD DROWNED.
BY THE TIME IT WAS CLOSE TO HORSE ROCK THE BOAT WOULD HAVE SUNK... LEAVING ONLY THE BODY AFLOAT.
AS THE BOAT AD-VANCED IT WOULD HAVE FILLED WITH WATER

AT THE MOUTH OF THE BAY, THERE ARE BOATS WHICH WERE SUNK ILLEGALLY.
THUS, IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO DO IT.
THAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF YOUR EXPERI-MENTS TO MEASURE THE TIME IT TAKES FOR A BOAT TO SINK.
SEKIGUCHI -SAN WAS ESPECIALLY CONFIDENT.
"EVEN NOW, I COULD SWIM TO HORSE ROCK!"
THEN, YOU WANTED TO SILENCE THE ONLY WITNESS LEFT, SEKIGUCHI -SAN.
AND YOU USED THAT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.
TO DO THAT, YOU WANTED TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HE DROWNED AT HORSE ROCK, LIKE ALL THOSE OLD ACCIDENTS.

IF HE DOES, IT'LL EXPOSE US!
RYOUSUKE'S FATHER WILL GO TO HORSE ROCK TOMORROW ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH!
WHAT? YONEKAWA PUT A LETTER WITH THE TRUTH ON THE HEAD OF HORSE ROCK?
I'LL DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT!
...THAT WON'T HAPPEN!
THAT'S WHY HE DROWNED!
YOU INFLUENCED HIM SO THAT HE WOULD SWIM THERE
LEAVE IT TO ME!
REALLY ?
THEY ARE POWERFUL, SO SWIMMING WOULD BE DIFFICULT.
THE CURRENTS IN THIS REGION ARE UNUSUAL.
BELIEVED SEKIGUCHI-SAN WOULD NEVER MAKE IT TO HORSE ROCK.
BUT YOU ...


THEREFORE, THE AMOUNT OF SEDIMENT ENTERING THE BAY DECREASED SHARPLY.
AND A DAM WAS BUILT UP-STREAM OF HERE
FURTHER-MORE, THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER IS REIN FORCED WITH CONCRETE.
THAT IS ...
THE CHANGE IN THE TIDAL CURRENTS AND THE REDUCTION IN SEDIMENT CHANGED THE COASTLINE.
MARINE EROSION!
Former Coastline
Current Coastline


BECAUSE OF THAT, THE APPEARANCE OF THE BEACH HAS CHANGED.
THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE ROCK AND THE COASTLINE IS FAR GREATER THAN IT WAS FORTY YEARS AGO.
BUT THE UNSUSPECTING SEKIGUCHI -SAN WENT OUT INTO THE SEA.

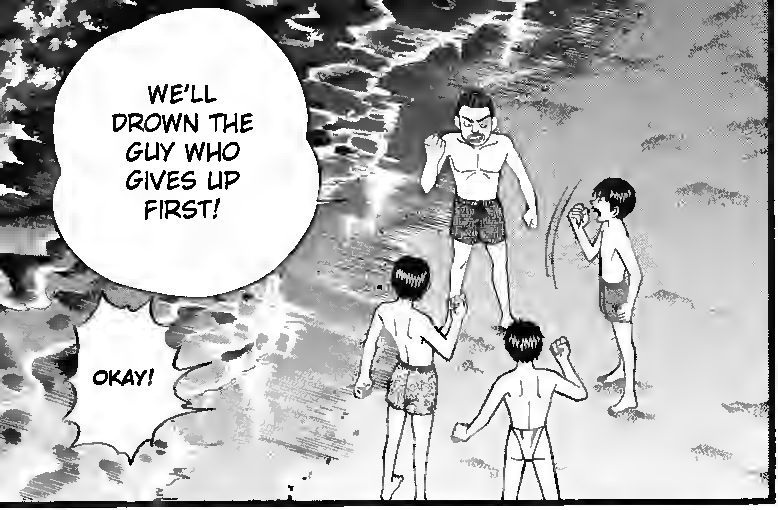

HMPH! HOW DARE YOU MAKE UP SUCH A STORY?
SWIMMING EVEN TWO KILOMETRES WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE TAKEN ALL HIS STRENGTH.
YOU WERE SURE OF THIS!
NO, IT'S THE TRUTH.
I PERSONALLY ASKED ABOUT IT.

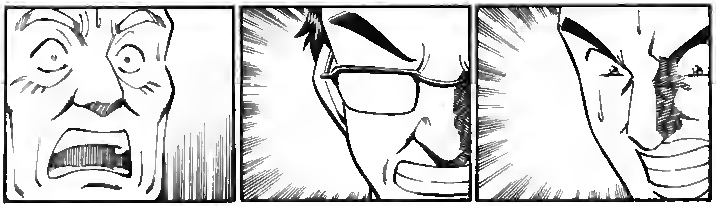
?
ON THE HEAD OF THE ROCK...
THERE REALLY IS A LETTER.
THIS IS THE LETTER I WROTE IT.
Tomorrow morning, go to the police station.
When you see this letter, hide all night.
THAT'S WHY I'VE COME HERE.
I ASKED MIZUHARA-SAN TO PUT THIS ON THE HEAD OF THE ROCK.
That was so tiring

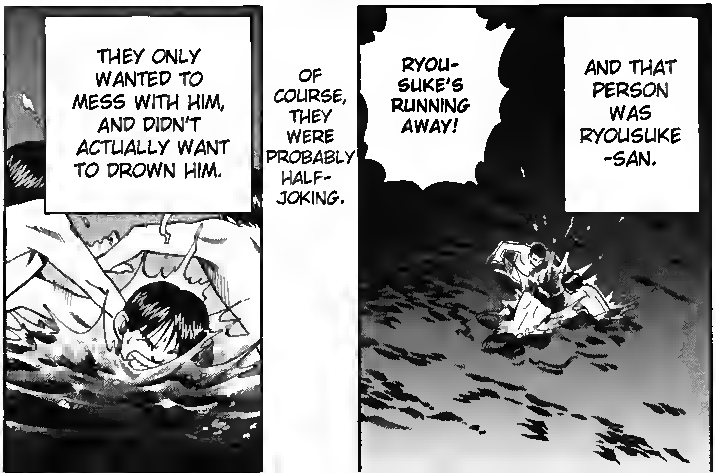
A SWIM RING?
I BORROWED IT FROM A FRIEND AND PUT IT IN THE CHANGE ROOM.
I WAS SURE THAT HE WOULD USE IT.

HORSE ROCK REALLY IS A KEY-STONE!
IT SAVED MY LIFE!
AND?
WHAT WAS THE TRUTH THEY WERE TRYING TO HIDE?
THEY WOULD HAVE TO FRANTICALLY SWIM THE 2 KILOMETRES TO THE ROCK.

THAT'S BECAUSE ...
TURNING BACK WAS A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH.
WHY DIDN'T ANYONE SUGGEST TURNING AROUND?
BUT WHY WOULD THEY SWIM IT IF IT WAS SO FRIGHTENING?
YOU SAID THAT THE FIRST TO GIVE UP WAS RYOUSUKE-SAN.
SEKIGUCHI-SAN, YOU SAID THIS, RIGHT?
A TEST OF COURAGE?
WASN'T SWIMMING TO HORSE ROCK...
THEY WANTED RYOUSUKE-SAN, THE STRONGEST SWIMMER, TO BE THE FIRST TO GIVE UP, SO THEY COULD DROWN HIM.
BUT THE RULE WAS THAT YOU COULDN'T TURN AROUND, OR YOUR LIFE WAS AT STAKE.
AND THESE CHILDREN PLAYED BY THE RULES...

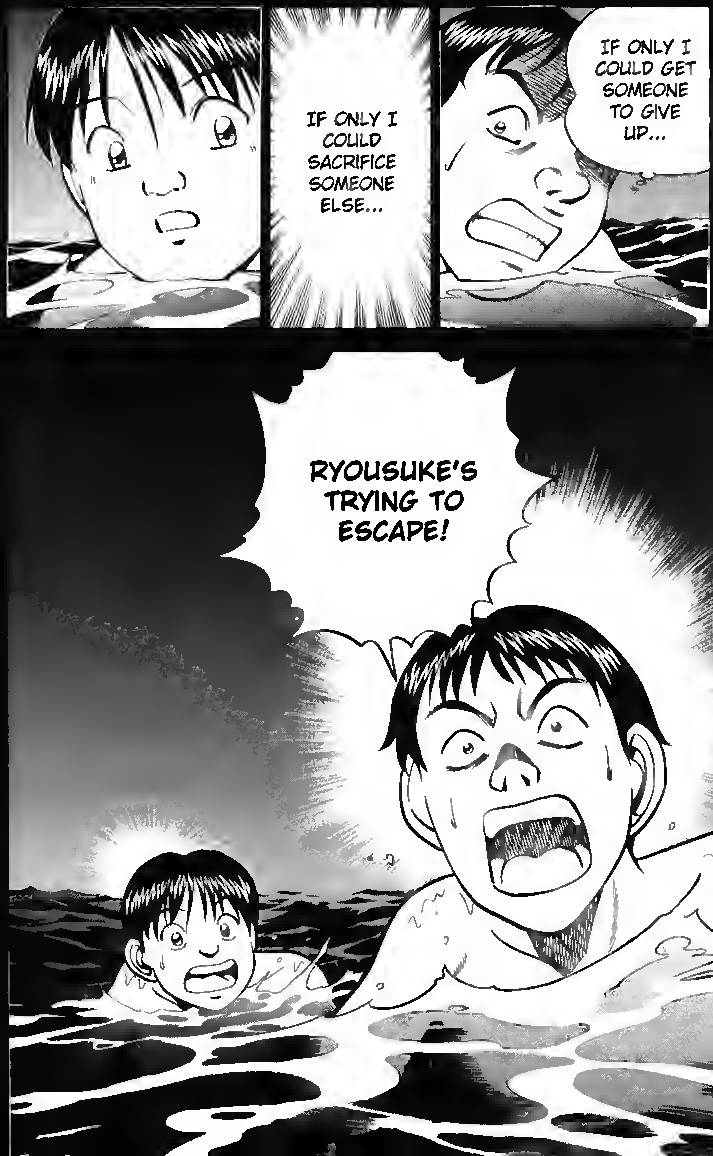

WE'LL DROWN THE GUY WHO GIVES UP FIRST!
OKAY!



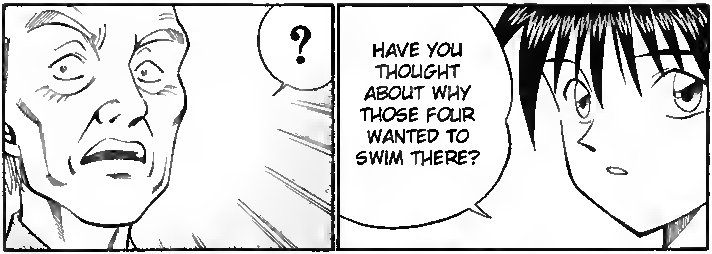

AND THAT PERSON WAS RYOUSUKE -SAN.
RYOU-SUKE'S RUNNING AWAY!
OF COURSE, THEY WERE PROBABLY HALF-JOKING.
THEY ONLY WANTED TO MESS WITH HIM, AND DIDN'T ACTUALLY WANT TO DROWN HIM.

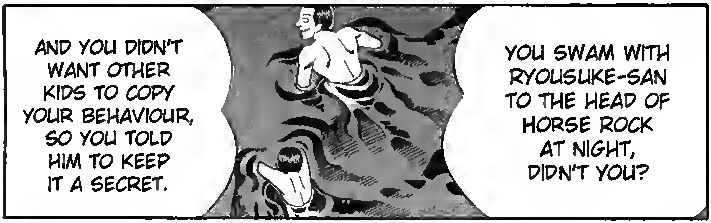
THEY NEVER KNEW ...
THAT THEY WERE GOING TO FACE A TERRIFYING CONSE-QUENCE.
.....
テロゲリラ犯人
WHO WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO MURDER THAT MAN TO HIDE THAT?!
IKADA -SAN ...
RYOUSUKE -SAN WAS YOUR BEST FRIEND, WASN'T HE?
YOU SAID THAT HE ALWAYS PROTECTED YOU.
DIDN'T YONEKAWA -SAN SEND THOSE LETTERS ANONY-MOUSLY..

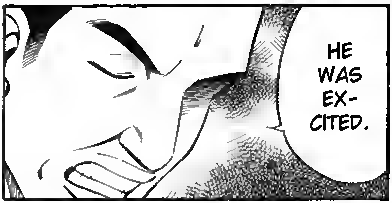
YONEKAWA -SAN REALIZED ...
BECAUSE HE WANTED YOU TO CONFESS THE TRUTH?
WAS RYOUSUKE -SAN SWIMMING AT THE VERY BACK?
THAT YOU WERE THE WORST SWIMMER.
THAT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
BUT, WHY ...
HEY! SABUROU ARE YOU OKAY? DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK?
AND THAT'S THE TERRIBLE TRUTH YOU DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW!

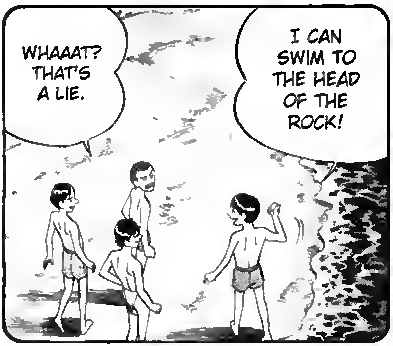

IF ONLY I COULD GET SOMEONE TO GIVE UP...
IF ONLY I COULD SACRIFICE SOMEONE ELSE...
RYOUSUKE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE!

Y-YOU !!
WASN'T RYOU-SUKE TRYING TO HELP YOU!?
EVEN IF HE HADN'T DONE THAT...
I WOULD HAVE MADE IT.
PLEASE WAIT, NAITOU -SAN.


?
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHY THOSE FOUR WANTED TO SWIM THERE?


AND YOU DIDN'T WANT OTHER KIDS TO COPY YOUR BEHAVIOUR, SO YOU TOLD HIM TO KEEP IT A SECRET.
YOU SWAM WITH RYOUSUKE-SAN TO THE HEAD OF HORSE ROCK AT NIGHT, DIDN'T YOU?


HE WAS EX-CITED.


WHAAAT? THAT'S A LIE.
I CAN SWIM TO THE HEAD OF THE ROCK!

RYOUSUKE TOLD US ABOUT IT.

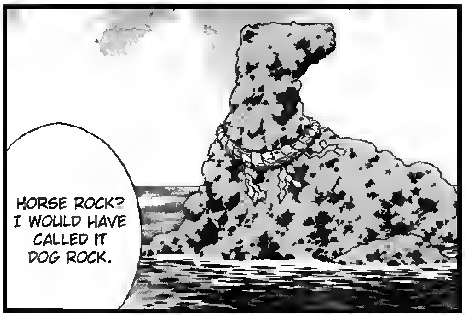
LET'S ALL GO!
IT'S THE TRUTH! IT WAS EASY!
REALLY... IT WAS SUPPOSED TO ONLY BE A GAME...
THAT'S HOW EVERY-THING STARTED.
!!
THIS HAPPENED... BECAUSE I TAUGHT HIM THAT?

IS THE END OF MY DEMON-STRATION.
THAT ...
MIZU-HARA -SAN ...
WHAT?
SOMETIMES, LARGE WAVES SUDDENLY CRASH ONTO THE BEACH, RIGHT?

DO YOU KNOW WHY?
NOPE.
THE WAVES ON THE BEACH OVERLAP ...
AND WHEN BY CHANCE THE CRESTS COINCIDE, THEY FORM A HUGE WAVE.
WE CAN'T PREDICT WHEN THE NEXT ONE IS COMING...
IF YOU'RE THAT SCARED, DON'T COME TO THE BEACH!

Sea of Refuge: Part One

Text provider: Anichan
Translator: Chocobofire
Cleaners: dragons-son and dudun-dudun
Typesetter: argentscarf
QC: argentscarf



It looks like a bear to me. Before, it kind of looked like an anteater. Anyway, this credit page will change after the 16th volume.

ORIONWAVE

Q.E.D.

¥:／>q. e. d._

Q.E.D.

Q.E.D

Q.E.D.

Q.E.D.

Q.E.D.

Q.E.D

Q.E.D.

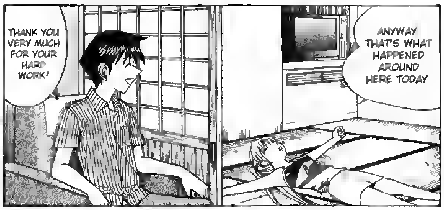
Q. E. D.

Q. E. D.

Q.E.D.

Sea of Refuge: Part Two

Text provider: Anichan
Translator: Chocobofire
Cleaners: dudun-dudun
Typesetter: Kirhidemi
QC: argentscarf



HA, I LOVE THAT KANA'S FRIEND COULDN'T SEE THAT TOUMA WAS THERE BECAUSE OF THE SLIDING DOOR. I'M PRETTY SURE THAT ALL OF KANA'S FRIENDS THINK THEY'RE IN A RELATIONSHIP ANYWAY.

ORIONWAVE

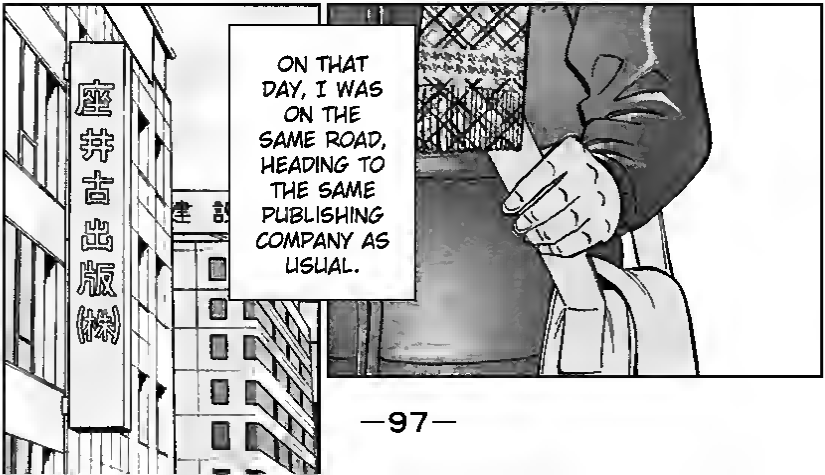
Sea of Refuge: Part Three

Text provider: Anichan
Translator: Chocobofire
Cleaner: dudun-dudun
Typesetter: Irrisia
QC: argentscarf

ORIONWAVE

WINTER
ZOO

THIS IS WHAT I LOOKED LIKE, WHEN I WAS STILL ALIVE.


座井古出版
ON THAT DAY, I WAS ON THE SAME ROAD, HEADING TO THE SAME PUBLISHING COMPANY AS USUAL.

I FIRST MET THOSE KIDS IN FRONT OF THE ENTRANCE TO THAT PUBLISHER.
THEY WERE STANDING THERE, HOLDING THE MANUSCRIPT TO MY DETECTIVE NOVEL.

TOUMA -KUN! THERE HE IS!
YUP, IT'S DEFINITELY HIM!
AH! THIS IS MY IMPORTANT MANUSCRIPT!
WHAT!?
HERE! YOU DROPPED THIS!

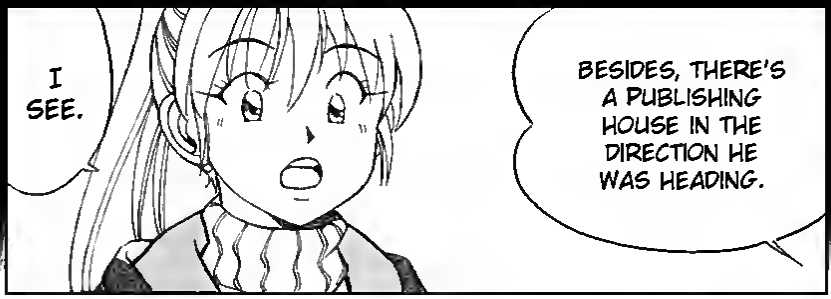
NO! WAIT, WAIT!!
OVER THERE ...
WELL ...
THANK YOU! BUT... WHERE IN THE WORLD DID YOU FIND IT!?
IF I WANT TO BECOME A DETECTIVE NOVEL AUTHOR, I MUST SOLVE THIS MYSTERY MYSELF!
HMM... I'M SURE THE LAST TIME I OPENED MY BAG WAS AT THE STATION...
THERE'S NO HOLE, SO IT WOULDN'T HAVE FALLEN OUT.
I PUT THE MANUSCRIPT IN THIS BAG...

THAT'S THE ONLY TIME IT COULD HAVE FALLEN OUT!
IT WAS WHEN I TOOK MY WALLET OUT TO BUY THE SPORTS NEWSPAPER...
WHAT'S WRONG?
BUT WAIT A SECOND... THAT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.
He thinks too much.
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE IT BACK TO ME AT THE STATION? WHY DID YOU WAIT FOR ME HERE?
YOU KNEW THIS WAS MINE, RIGHT?
WOULDN'T THAT MEAN YOU WERE THERE WHEN IT FELL OUT?

WE PICKED UP THE ENVELOPE IN FRONT OF THE NEWSPAPER STAND IN THE STATION...
WHO DROPPED IT?
IT LOOKS LIKE A NOVEL MANUSCRIPT.
SOMEONE DROPPED THIS, TOUMA -KUN.

IT'S HIM.
HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT?
IT'S THE GUY WEARING THE SCARF WHO JUST WALKED AROUND THE CORNER.

I LOOKED FOR PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T WEARING A SUIT OR TIE.
I TOOK A LOOK AROUND.
HE WAS LOOKING AT THE FRONT PAGE OF A SPORTS PAPER.
THEN I SAW THAT GUY.
THE SORT OF PERSON WHO WOULD BE CARRYING A MANUSCRIPT IS PROBABLY AN EDITOR OR A WRITER, WHO WOULDN'T WEAR A SUIT, RIGHT?
SO HE BOUGHT THE NEWSPAPER HERE.
AND THAT IS WHEN HE DROPPED THE MANUSCRIPT.
IF YOU HAD JUST BOUGHT IT, YOU WOULD STILL BE LOOKING AT THE FRONT PAGE.
WHEN YOU BUY A SPORTS NEWSPAPER FROM A STAND, YOU USUALLY BUY IT BECAUSE OF THE HEADLINE, RIGHT?

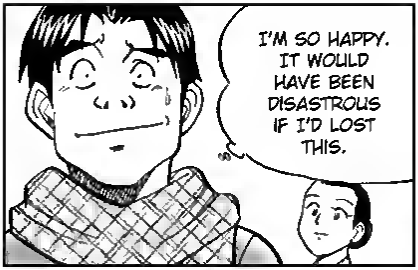

I SEE.
BESIDES, THERE'S A PUBLISHING HOUSE IN THE DIRECTION HE WAS HEADING.

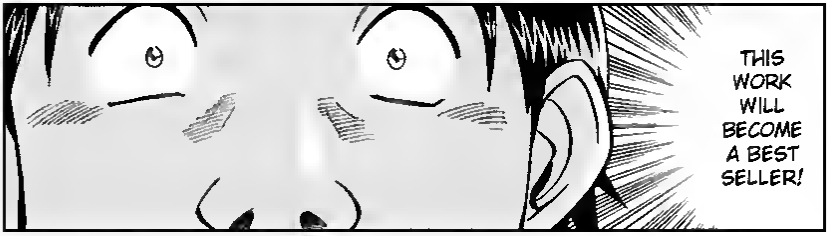
THEN WE THOUGHT IF WE TOOK A SHORTCUT AND GOT HERE FIRST, WE COULD MEET YOU HERE.
WE TRIED TO CHASE YOU, BUT WE LOST TRACK OF YOU.

I'M INCREDIBLY IMPRESSED!
WHAT POWERS OF DEDUCTION!

AMAZING!

AS A SIGN OF MY GRATITUDE, I WILL GIVE YOU THIS COUPON FOR CHEAP BEER!
NO, ACTUALLY, WE'RE NOT OLD ENOUGH...
SEE YOU LATER!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE AN AMAZING KID DETECTIVE ONE DAY!
THIS MANUSCRIPT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW OLD DOES HE THINK YOU ARE?
IS THERE REALLY A JOB LIKE KID DETECTIVE?



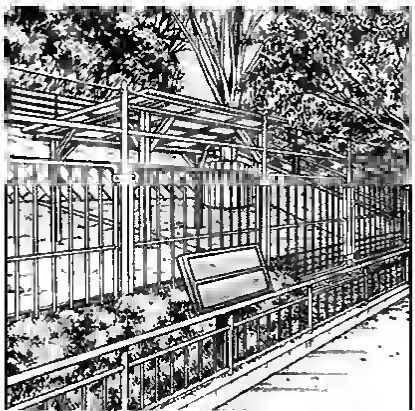


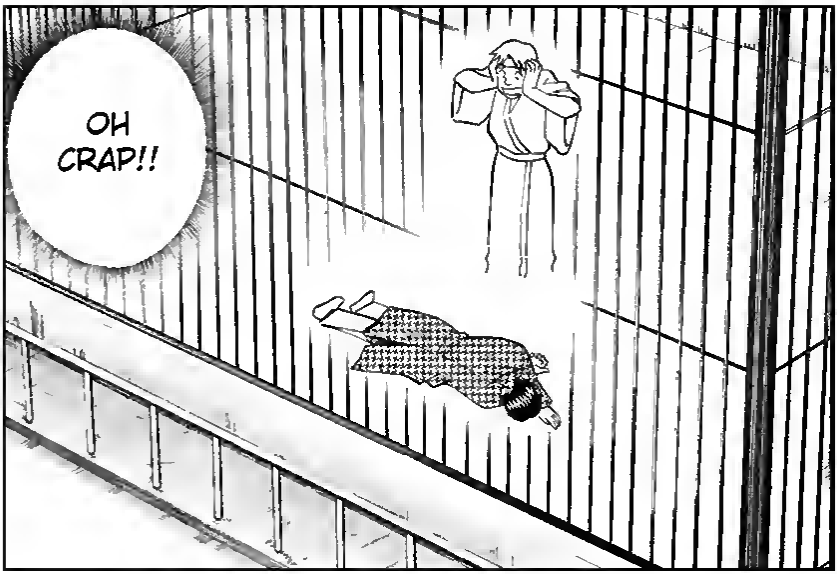
THAT WAS WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN, BUT...

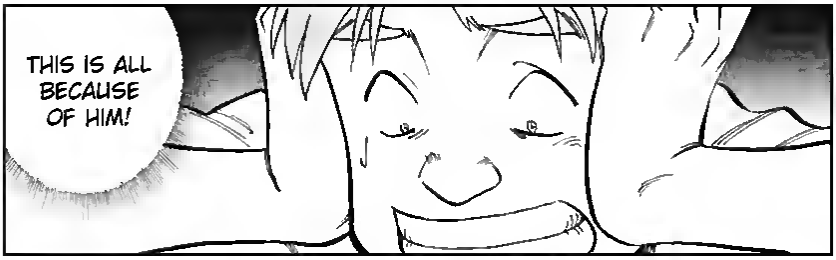
HOW COULD IT HAVE TURNED OUT THIS WAY...!?
毛我和動物園
KEGAW
MANIA

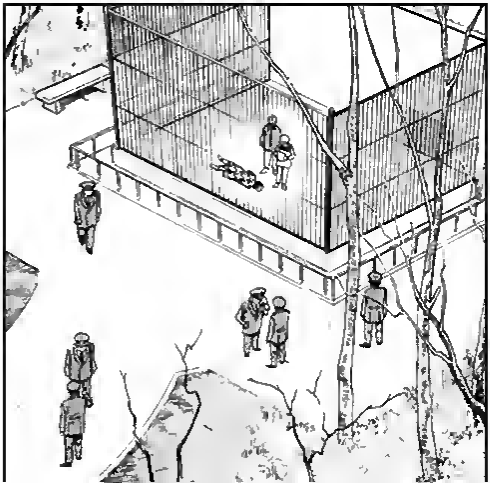
毛我和動物園

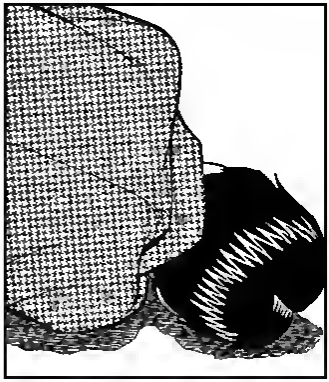
トライオン
ゾウ




OH CRAP!!


THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF HIM!

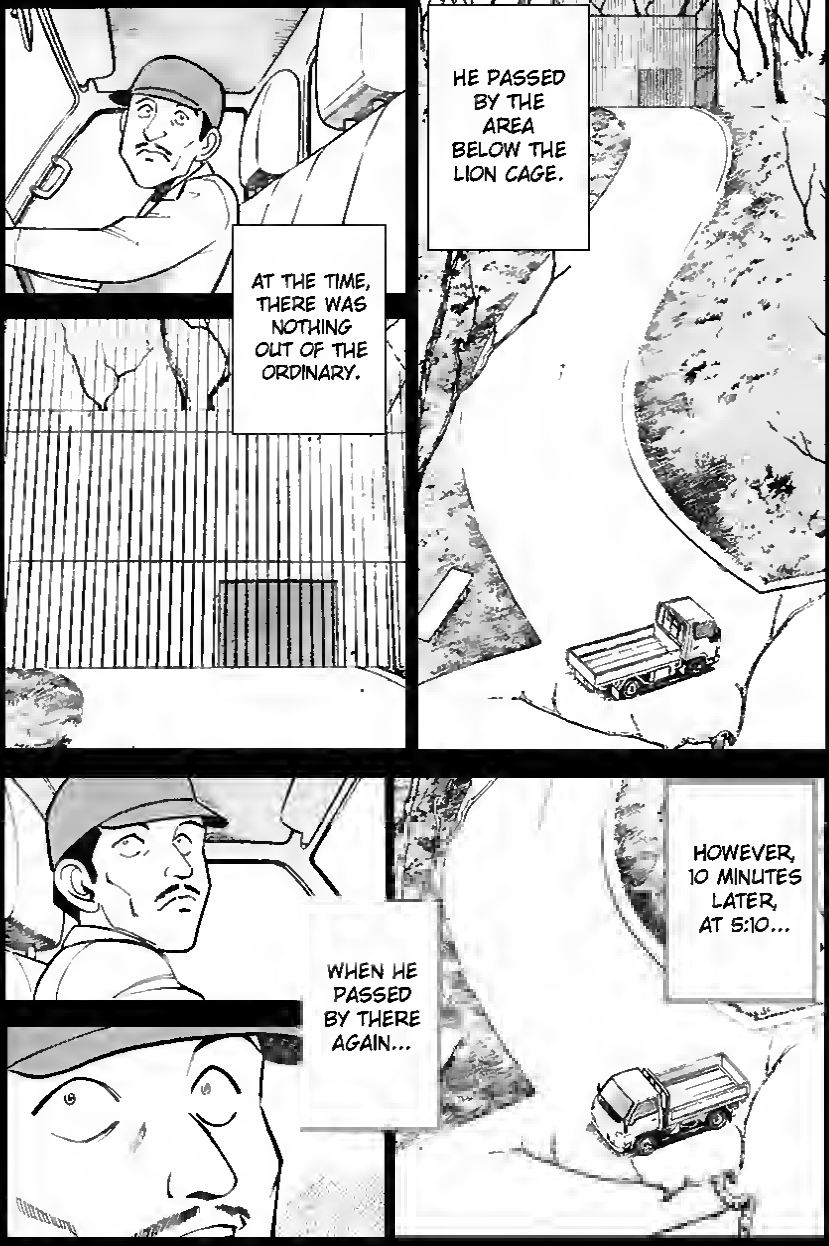


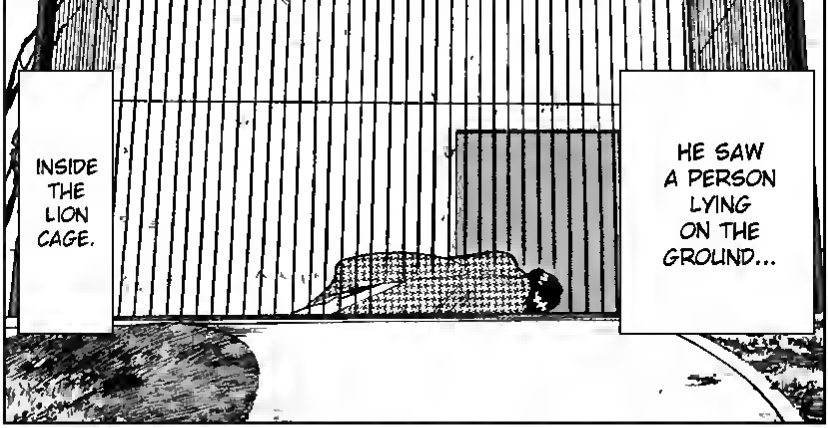


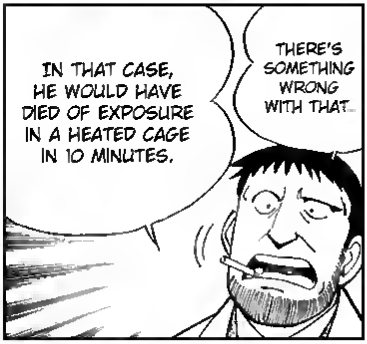
THANK YOU FOR COMING, LIEUTENANT MIZUHARA.
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF HILLS HERE!
EUGH... IT'S COLD!
IT'S BECAUSE THIS ZOO WAS BUILT ON A MOUNTAINSIDE.
THAT'S THE BODY, INSIDE THE LION'S CAGE...
APPARENTLY, AT NIGHT THEY KEEP THE LION INSIDE AN INNER ENCLOSURE.
IT'S STRANGE HE WASN'T EATEN BY THE LION.

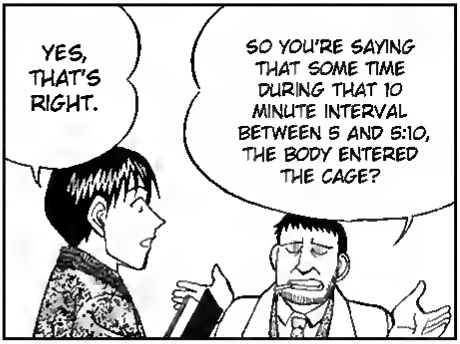
DURING THE DAY, THE ANIMALS ARE LET INTO THE EXERCISE AREA. THEREFORE, THE BODY WAS LEFT UNTOUCHED.
Sleeping Area
Exercise Area
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE ...
ISN'T IT TOO WARM HERE FOR THAT?
HE FROZE TO DEATH?
I BELIEVE THAT HE GOT DRUNK, CLIMBED THE FENCE, AND DIED BY FREEZING TO DEATH.
BECAUSE THE BODY SMELLS LIKE ALCOHOL ...
I SEE, SO IT WAS COLD BEFORE 5 AM, HUH?
THERE IS A HEATING SYSTEM THAT TURNS ON AT 5 AM FOR ANIMALS SUSCEPTIBLE TO COLD WEATHER.

MARGARET, THE LION, IS PACING BACK AND FORTH AND WANTS TO GET OUT.
WHEN WILL WE BE ABLE TO USE THIS EXERCISE AREA?
DETEC-TIVE.
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID, MARGARET.
PLEASE ASK MARGARET TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.
GRRR!
WHILE HE WAS DRIVING TO HIS ASSIGNED AREA...
HE SAID THAT AROUND 5 IN THE MORNING ...
WELL... THE FIRST PERSON ON THE SCENE WAS THE CARETAKER, AND THIS IS HIS TESTIMONY.


HE PASSED BY THE AREA BELOW THE LION CAGE.
AT THE TIME, THERE WAS NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
HOWEVER, 10 MINUTES LATER, AT 5:10...
WHEN HE PASSED BY THERE AGAIN...


INSIDE THE LION CAGE.
HE SAW A PERSON LYING ON THE GROUND...

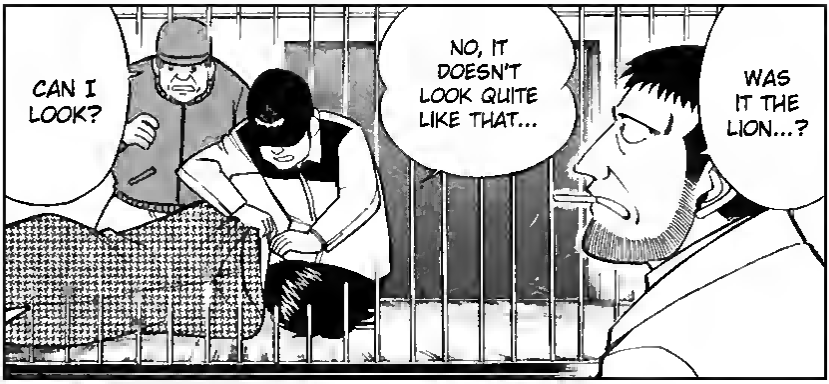

IN THAT CASE, HE WOULD HAVE DIED OF EXPOSURE IN A HEATED CAGE IN 10 MINUTES.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT.

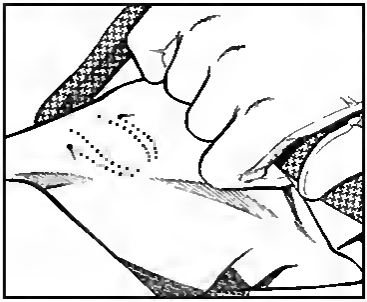

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT SOME TIME DURING THAT 10 MINUTE INTERVAL BETWEEN 5 AND 5:10, THE BODY ENTERED THE CAGE?

IT'S ON THE NECK OF THE VICTIM...

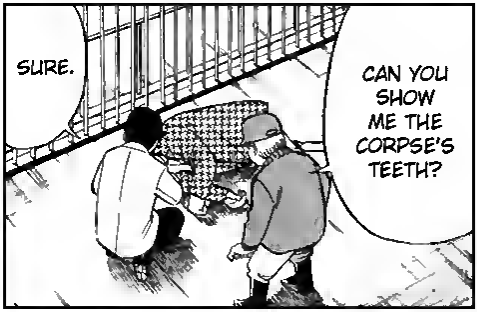
IT LOOKS LIKE A BITE MARK.

WHAT IS IT?
WHAT?


CAN I LOOK?
NO, IT DOESN'T LOOK QUITE LIKE THAT...
WAS IT THE LION...?



YES, PLEASE DO. YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT IT THAN ME.


SURE.
CAN YOU SHOW ME THE CORPSE'S TEETH?

TIGER KEEL-BACK?

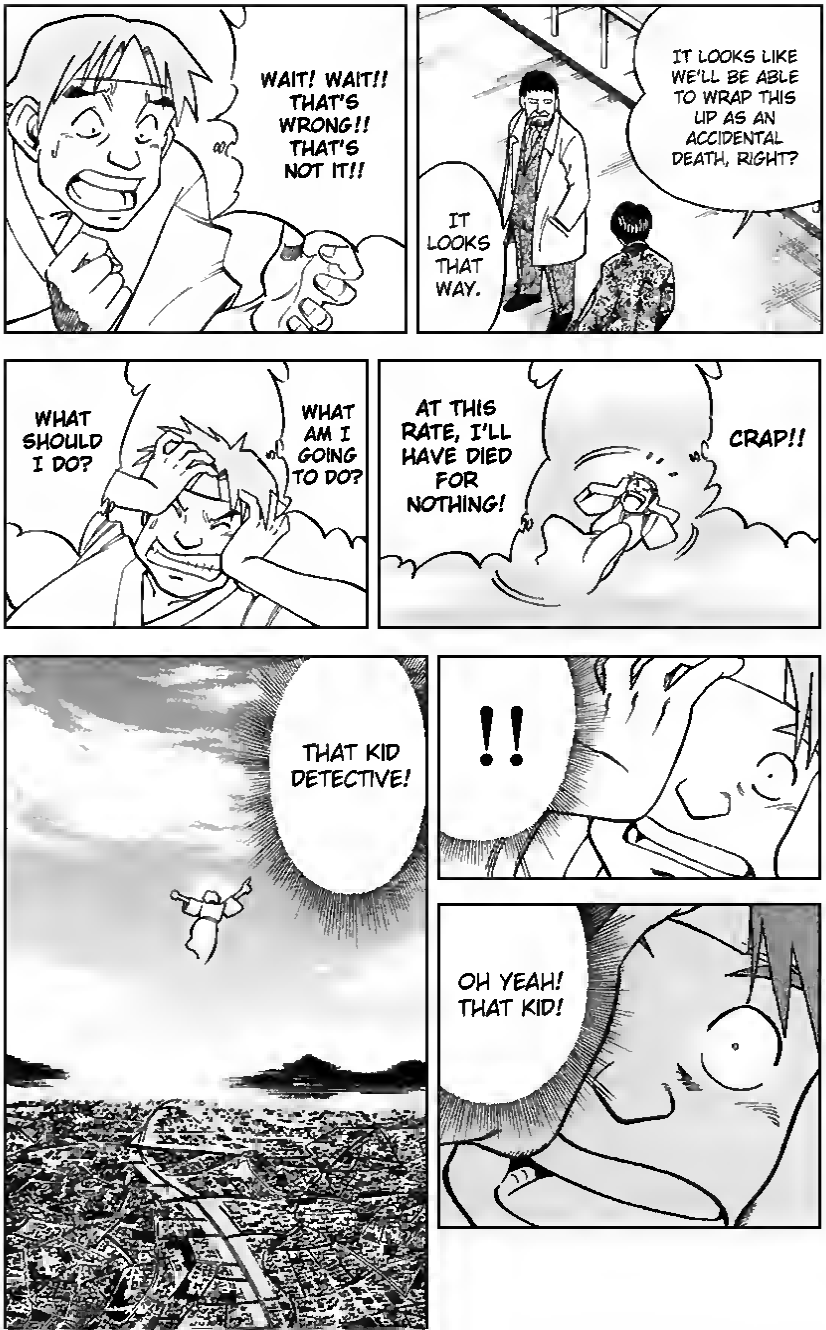
HE'S BEEN POISONED BY A TIGER KEELBACK.

YES, THEY ARE. IT USED TO BE THOUGHT THAT THE ONLY VENOMOUS SNAKES IN JAPAN WERE THE HABU AND THE MAMUSHI, BUT OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE TIGER KEELBACK IS ALSO VENOMOUS.

ARE THEY REALLY POISONOUS?
A TIGER KEELBACK IS A TYPE OF SNAKE THAT LIVES IN THE MEADOWS AROUND HERE.

WHEN YOU ARE BITTEN BY THE SNAKE, YOUR BLOOD STOPS COAGULATING, YOU INTERNALLY HEMORRHAGE, AND YOU BLEED OUT OF YOUR GUMS.
IT'S SAID THAT IT'S AS VENOMOUS AS A COBRA.
IF HE WAS DRINKING AND HE ALSO WAS IN SUCH A COLD PLACE...
DETECTIVE, IF HE WAS POISONED BY THAT KIND OF VENOM, THE CAUSE OF DEATH MIGHT BE A CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE, RIGHT?
ON A COLD DAY LIKE THIS, IT'S GOT TO BE HIDING SOMEWHERE WARM.
YES, SIR!
RIGHT NOW, LET'S LOOK FOR THAT TIGER KEELBACK!
WE'LL LEAVE THE CAUSE OF DEATH TO THE CORONER.

FOR SOMEONE TO DIE FROM A TIGER KEELBACK BITE...
BUT THAT'S STRANGE ...
GET THAT BODY READY FOR TRANS-PORT.
MAKE SURE THE PEOPLE LOOKING WEAR LONG BOOTS SO THEY DON'T GET BITTEN.
YES, SIR!
THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED!
AAAAGH!! THAT'S WRONG!!
INSPECTOR! THAT'S WRONG!
HAVE A CLOSER LOOK!


WAIT! WAIT!! THAT'S WRONG!! THAT'S NOT IT!!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO WRAP THIS UP AS AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH, RIGHT?
IT LOOKS THAT WAY.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
AT THIS RATE, I'LL HAVE DIED FOR NOTHING!
CRAP!!
THAT KID DETECTIVE!
!!
OH YEAH! THAT KID!

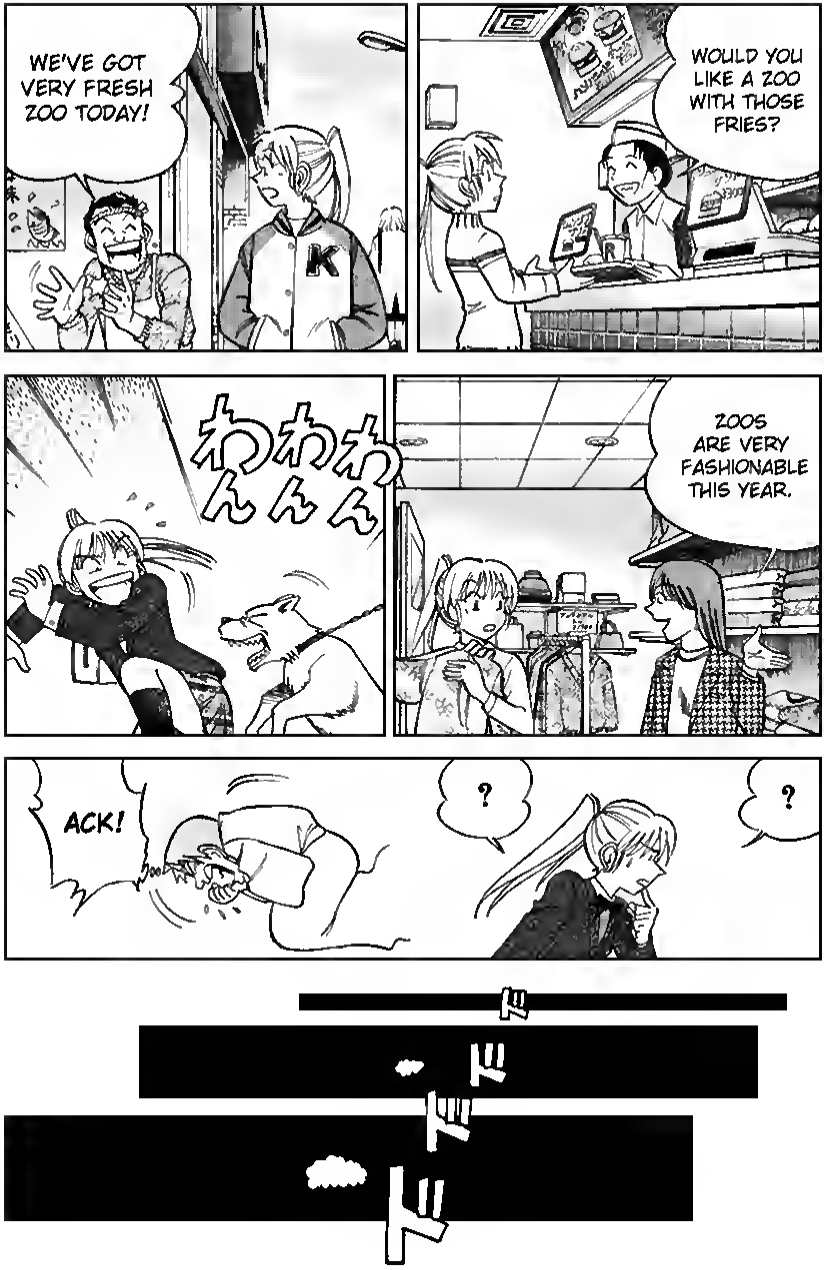
Death by Poisonous Snake Bite
Discovered inside the lion cage in the zoo
Cerebral hemorrhage due to tiger keelback
Man jumps to death
I HAD NO IDEA!
SO THERE ARE SCARY SNAKES LIKE THIS EVEN IN JAPAN.

THE TIGER KEELBACK, IN ADDITION TO ITS VENOMOUS FANGS, CAN ALSO SECRETE POISON FROM OTHER PARTS OF ITS BODY. IF YOU GET ITS POISON IN YOUR EYES, YOU MUST WASH IT OUT IMMEDIATELY, OR RISK BLINDNESS.
FOR SOME REASON, IT WAS NOT UNTIL RECENTLY THAT THE TIGER KEELBACK WAS KNOWN TO BE VENOMOUS.
HMM...
DAD AND THE POLICE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR THE SNAKE, BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND IT.
THAT'S ISN'T GOOD.
OH, I'M GOING THIS WAY TODAY.
WELL THEN, I'LL RETURN YOUR DUMB-BELL BAG.

IS THAT HOW IT IS?
HEY, YOU SAID IT WAS SO HEAVY THAT I NEEDED TO HELP YOU, BUT YOU CAN CARRY IT EASILY WITH ONE HAND!
NO PROBLEM, NO PROBLEM.
ヒョイ
WILL YOU BE OKAY BY YOURSELF? IT'S PRETTY HEAVY.
THOSE TWO...
TRAINING FOR WHAT?
IT'S GOOD TRAINING FOR YOU.
IS THE GIRL THE LEADER?

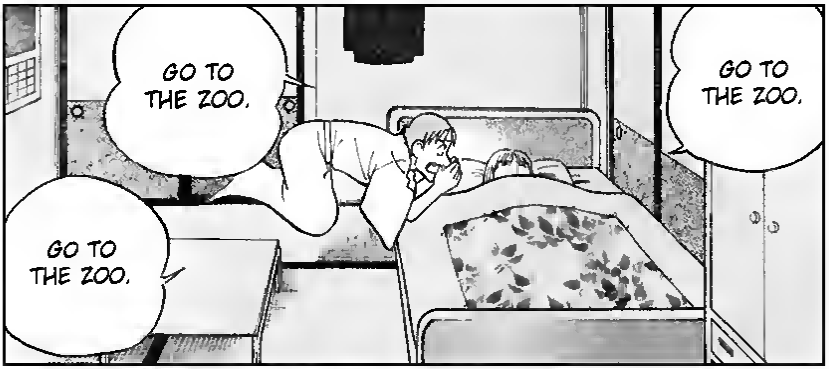
THAT'LL BE 592 YEN.
24
Convenience
HERE'S YOUR CHANGE, 408 YEN.
HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE ZOO?
THE ZOO?
HUH?

I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
JUST NOW, YOU ASKED ME IF I'D GONE TO THE ZOO.
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
WAS IT MY IMAGI-NATION?
WHEN I POSSESS PEOPLE AND TRY TO TALK IT FEELS LIKE SOMEONE'S STUFFED A RAG DOWN MY THROAT.
WHAT THE?
NO!! I CAN'T GIVE UP BECAUSE OF THAT!
I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE!!


WE'VE GOT VERY FRESH ZOO TODAY!
WOULD YOU LIKE A ZOO WITH THOSE FRIES?
わわわ
んんん
ZOOS ARE VERY FASHIONABLE THIS YEAR.
ACK!
?
?

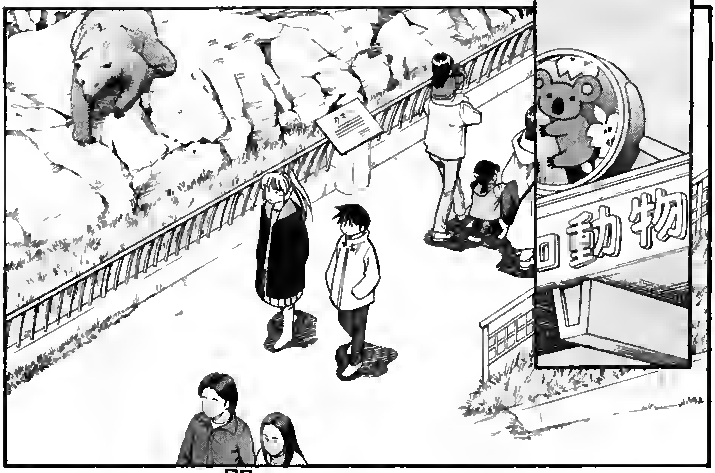
UWUPWUP!
BWAAH!

ヒイ


GO TO THE ZOO.
GO TO THE ZOO.
GO TO THE ZOO.

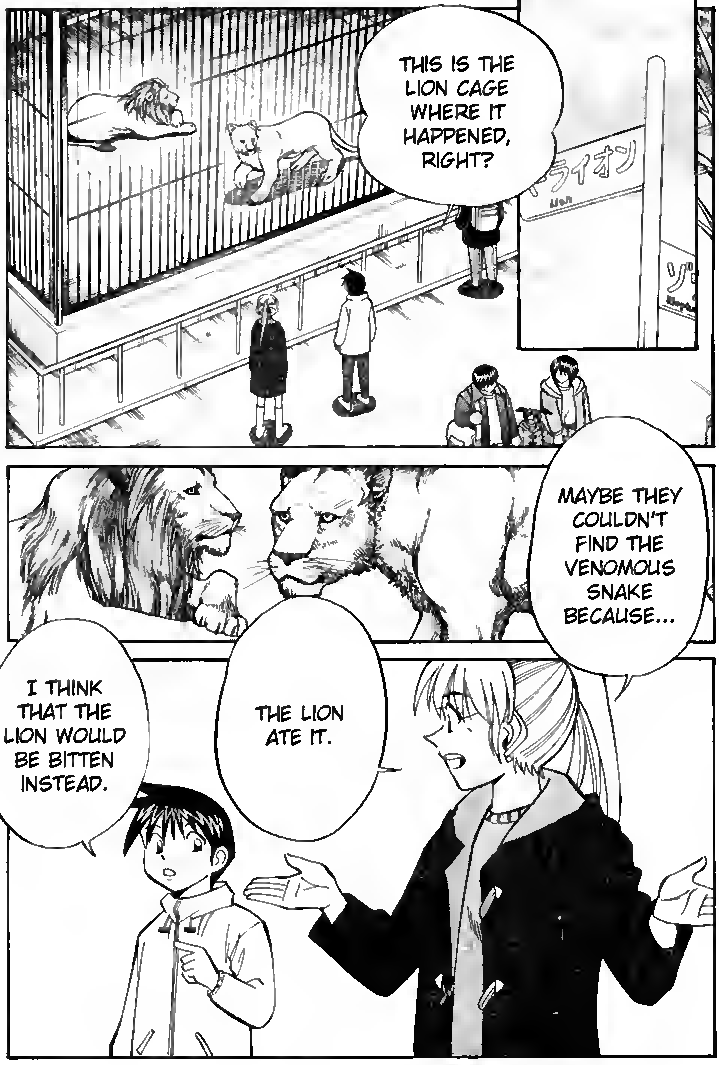
UGH ...

GO TO THE ZOO.
GO TO THE ZOO.


動物

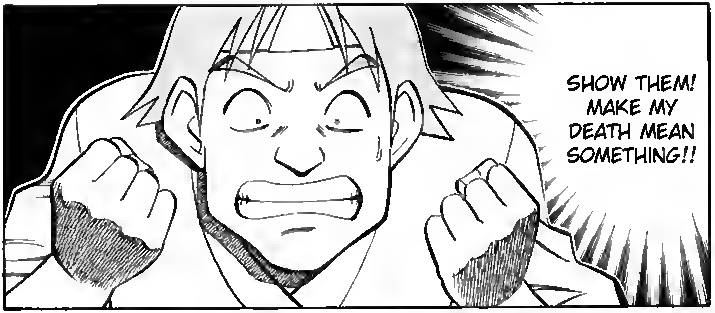
DON'T SAY THAT WORD IN FRONT OF ME!!
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY WANT TO GO TO THE ZO..?
.....
.....

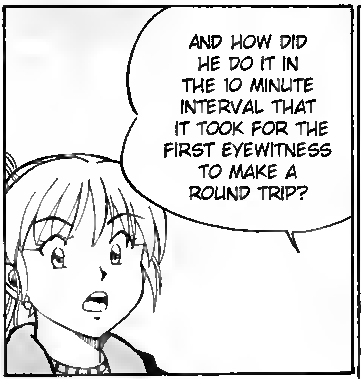
I JUST FELT LIKE I HAD TO COME HERE!!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR!?

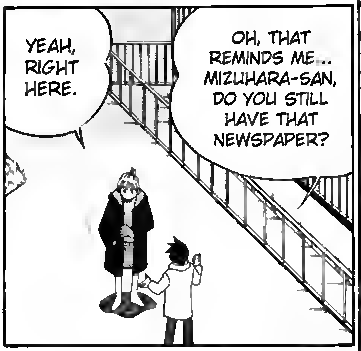

THIS IS THE LION CAGE WHERE IT HAPPENED, RIGHT?
ライオン
MAYBE THEY COULDN'T FIND THE VENOMOUS SNAKE BECAUSE...
THE LION ATE IT.
I THINK THAT THE LION WOULD BE BITTEN INSTEAD.

LIKE I SAID BEFORE, THE TIGER KEELBACK WASN'T KNOWN TO BE VENOMOUS FOR A LONG TIME.
ANYWAY, THERE IS A PROBLEM.
HUH? WHY? BUT DON'T THEY HAVE LETHAL VENOM!?
THAT'S BECAUSE PEOPLE DON'T USUALLY DIE FROM ITS BITE.
ACTUALLY, UNLIKE THE PLACEMENT OF THE VENOMOUS FANGS IN THE HABU AND MAMUSHI...
Habu and Mamushi
Tiger Keelback
THEY'RE AT THE VERY BACK OF THE MOUTH IN A TIGER KEELBACK.

EVEN IF YOU WERE BITTEN, THE FANGS WOULDN'T REACH YOU AND THE VENOM WOULDN'T ENTER YOUR BODY.
THAT'S WHY IT DIDN'T SEEM TO BE VENOMOUS.
BUT HERE A PERSON HAS...
THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
IT COULD BE THAT SOMEONE
DELIBERATELY FORCED THE SNAKE TO BITE HIM.
THAT'S IT, KID DETECTIVE !!


SHOW THEM! MAKE MY DEATH MEAN SOMETHING!!


AND HOW DID HE DO IT IN THE 10 MINUTE INTERVAL THAT IT TOOK FOR THE FIRST EYEWITNESS TO MAKE A ROUND TRIP?


YEAH, RIGHT HERE.
OH, THAT REMINDS ME... MIZUHARA-SAN, DO YOU STILL HAVE THAT NEWSPAPER?

WHY DID HE LEAVE THE CORPSE IN THE LION CAGE?
IF IT WAS DELIBERATE...

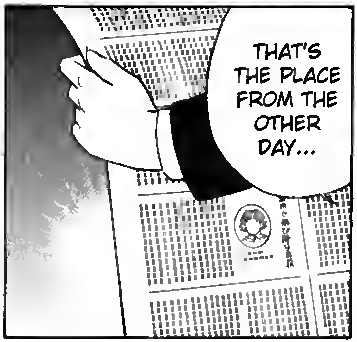
THE VICTIM WAS AN EDITOR FOR ZAIKO PUBLISHING NAMED YOKODORI.

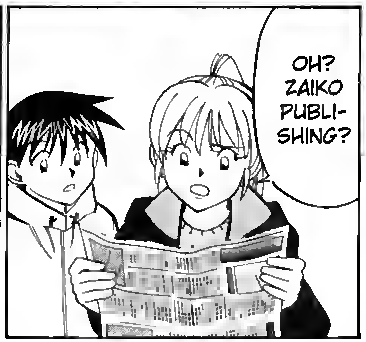
BODY DISCOVERED IN LION CAGE

UM...

The deceased Yokodori Kousei

Tiger Keelback venom caused cerebral hemorrhage.



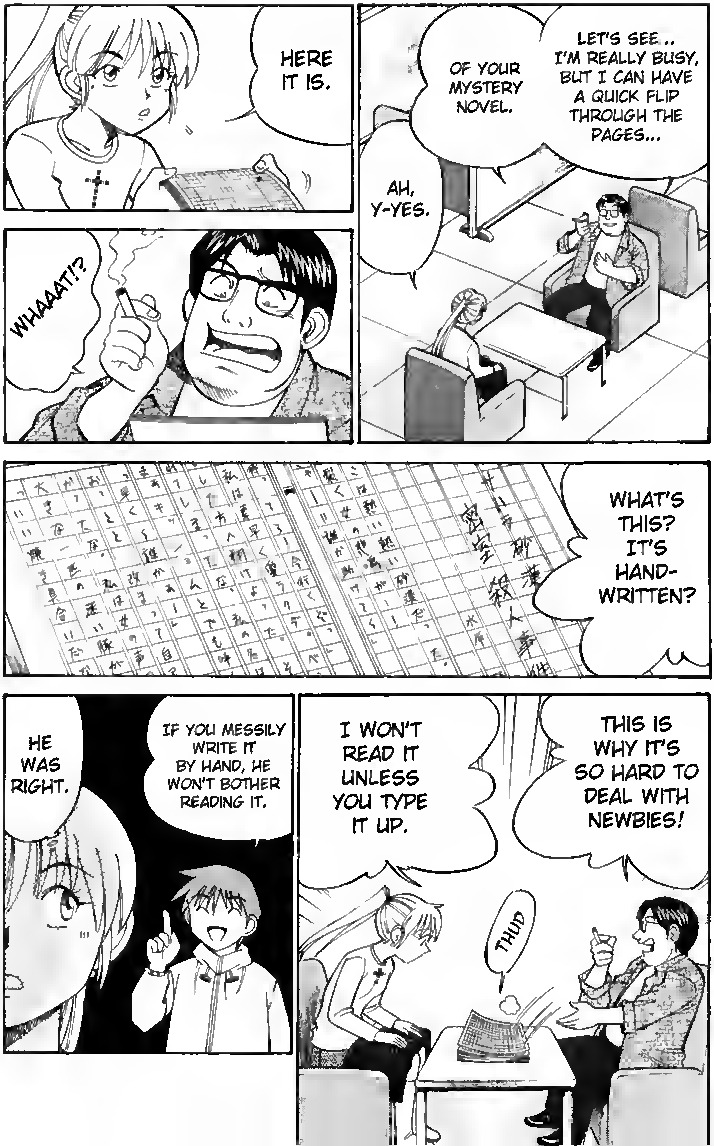


The deceased Shitatsumi Nagao

MAN JUMPS TO HIS DEATH IN CITY

I'D LIKE TO SEE TAKAYAMA-SAN FROM MONTHLY MEGA MYSTERIES.
UM... MY NAME IS MIZUHARA.
座井古出版(株)
WRITE DOWN YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS HERE AND I'LL CALL HIM.
I HOPE THIS WORKS.
IT'LL BE FINE. I KNOW A TRICK.
WHAT? INVESTIGATE BY PRETENDING TO BRING IN A MANUSCRIPT? I CAN'T WRITE A NOVEL!

YOU'RE TAKAYAMA-SAN, THE EDITOR?
HEY~ THERE! DID I KEEP YOU WAITING? SORRY!
I WAITED ALL NIGHT, BUT HE STILL HADN'T FINISHED YET! I FILLED THREE ASHTRAYS, AND MY STOMACH REALLY HURT.
KATOU'S MANUSCRIPT IS LATE AND...
OH YEAH... I'M SO BUSY I'M EXHAUSTED.
ドス
Oh. Well Sorry
MAN... I'M SO BUSY!
I TOOK SOME STOMACH MEDICINE AND THOUGHT I WAS DONE PROOFREADING. BUT NOW I HAVE TO MEET WITH A NEW AUTHOR!
THEN, I WENT OUT TO DRINK AND THE IDOL MOMOKA WAS THERE! SO I WAS UP ALL NIGHT!

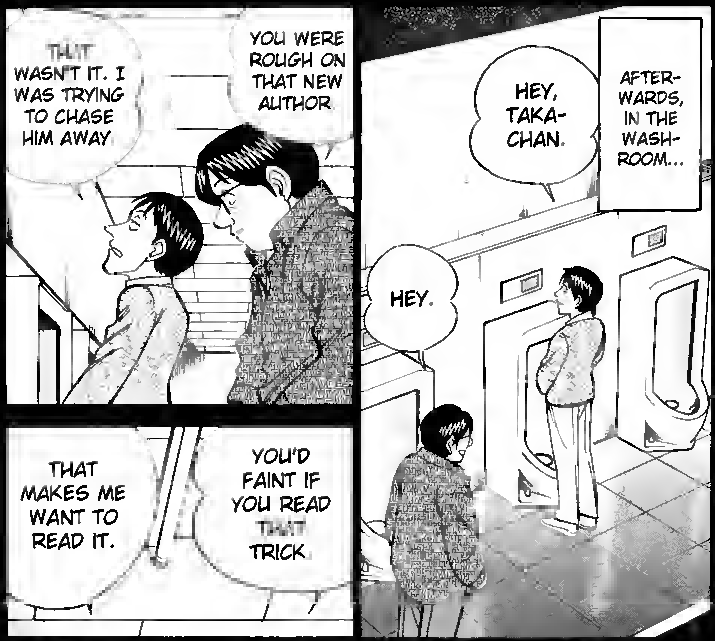

HERE IT IS.
LET'S SEE.. I'M REALLY BUSY, BUT I CAN HAVE A QUICK FLIP THROUGH THE PAGES...
OF YOUR MYSTERY NOVEL.
AH, Y-YES.
WHAAAT!?
WHAT'S THIS? IT'S HAND-WRITTEN?
THIS IS WHY IT'S SO HARD TO DEAL WITH NEWBIES!
I WON'T READ IT UNLESS YOU TYPE IT UP.
THUD
IF YOU MESSILY WRITE IT BY HAND, HE WON'T BOTHER READING IT.
HE WAS RIGHT.

BY THE WAY, THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU.
BE SURE THAT YOU DO, I'M REALLY BUSY.
OK, I'LL COME BACK ONCE I'VE DONE THAT...
I HEARD THAT YOU HAD AN EDITOR NAMED YOKODORI-SAN WHO DIED UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE ZOO.
WELL, I KNOW THE FEELING OF WANTING TO HAVE INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE.
IT WAS IN THE NEWS-PAPER.
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? RUMORS LIKE THAT ARE GOING AROUND ALREADY?
ACTUALLY, THE LAST PERSON TO TALK TO YOKODORI WAS ME.

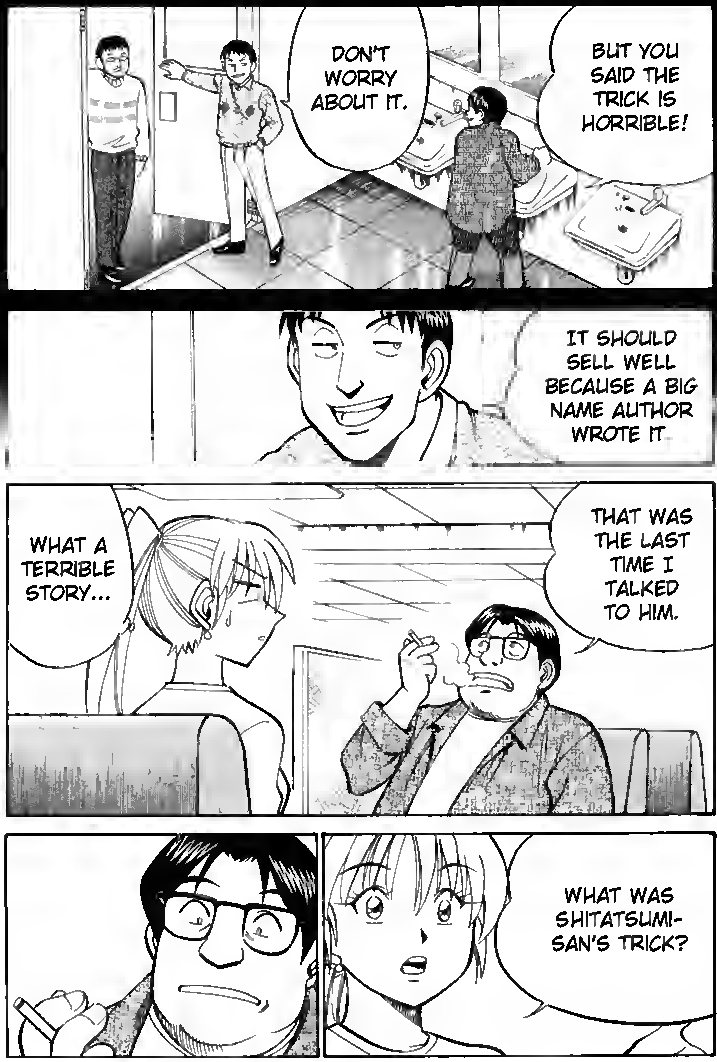
IT WAS THE DAY BEFORE HE DIED.
HE WAS LOOKING OVER A NEW AUTHOR'S DETECTIVE NOVEL IN THE RECEPTION AREA.
THE PROLOGUE DOESN'T DRAW ME IN, THE CHARACTERS ARE FLAT, AND THERE ISN'T ANY TENSION!
THIS IS BORING!
RUSTLE

AND ON TOP OF THAT...
THE TRICK IS TERRIBLE!
COULD YOU TELL ME SPECIFICALLY WHAT WAS BAD?
EVERY-THING.
BE HONEST WITH ME SHITATSUMI-SAN...
DO YOU REALLY THINK WHAT YOU WROTE WAS INTERESTING?
Y-YES!
OF COURSE!

UH... OK.
ANYWAY, I DON'T NEED THAT, SO TAKE IT WITH YOU.
.....
I GUESS THERE'S NO POINT.
OK, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IF YOU HAVE A NEW STORY, CALL ME.
ドヤ


AFTER-WARDS, IN THE WASH-ROOM...
HEY, TAKA-CHAN.
HEY.
YOU WERE ROUGH ON THAT NEW AUTHOR
THAT WASN'T IT. I WAS TRYING TO CHASE HIM AWAY
YOU'D FAINT IF YOU READ THAT TRICK.
THAT MAKES ME WANT TO READ IT.
ANYWAY, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH OUR BIG NAME AUTHOR TSUNABUCHI'S MANUSCRIPT?
IT'S BAD! IT'S LATE, REALLY LATE!
HE SAID HE CAN'T THINK OF A TRICK!
IF HE DOESN'T HAVE A NEW STORY OUT, IT'LL AFFECT THE SALES OF THE MAGAZINE!
CRAP! I WISH I COULD THINK OF A GOOD IDEA!

I'LL JUST GIVE THAT TO TSUNA-BUCHI!
THAT NEW GUY'S TRICK...
OH... THAT'S RIGHT.
WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE GOING TO STEAL HIS IDEA?
IT'S FINE. EVERYONE DOES IT.
BESIDES, IF WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, HIS IDEA WOULD NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY.
WE'RE ACTUALLY PUBLISH-ING IT.
HE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL.


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BUT YOU SAID THE TRICK IS HORRIBLE!
IT SHOULD SELL WELL BECAUSE A BIG NAME AUTHOR WROTE IT.
WHAT A TERRIBLE STORY...
THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I TALKED TO HIM.
WHAT WAS SHITATSUMI-SAN'S TRICK?

AND IT SEEMS THAT GUY SHITATSUMI'S DEAD...
I DIDN'T ASK AT THE TIME AND YOKODORI'S DEAD NOW...
UM... I DON'T KNOW.
I HEARD HE COMMITTED SUICIDE BY JUMPING OFF A BUILDING.
HE DIED TOO?
IT WAS DEFINITELY BECAUSE HIS DREAM WAS RUINED HE COULDN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE.
THERE WASN'T A WILL.
IT WAS FROM THE ROOF OF THE APARTMENT BUILDING WHERE HE LIVED.

IT MIGHT BE COLD TO SAY THIS...
BUT THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE FOR EVERYONE IN THIS BUSINESS.
DO YOU KNOW SHITATSUMI-SAN'S ADDRESS?
HMM? OH, I THINK THE LADY AT RECEPTION'S THE ONLY OTHER PERSON WHO KNOWS.
OH, SHITATSUMI-SAN, RIGHT?
HERE IS HIS ADDRESS.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO HIS HOME, COULD YOU TAKE SOMETHING WITH YOU...

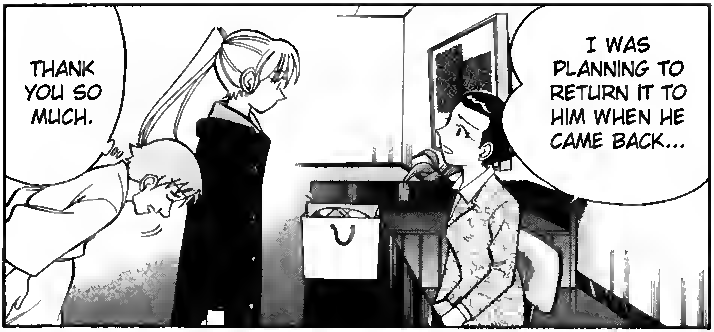
A SCARF?
HERE IT IS.
OH! MY SCARF...
IT'S THAT GUY'S!!

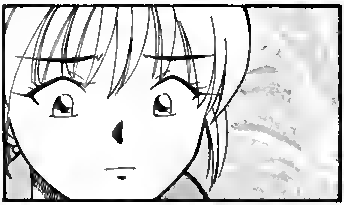
HUH? WHERE DID I FORGET THAT?
WHERE WAS THIS?
OVER THERE.
IN THE WASH-ROOM.
ウンウン
FIVE DAYS AGO...
IT SHOULD SELL WELL BECAUSE A BIG NAME AUTHOR WROTE IT.

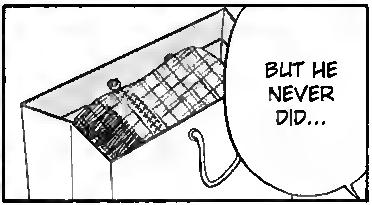
SLAM
OH~ IT'S BUSY.
SHEESH, THAT JERK'S SO LAID-BACK...
CREAK
CREAK
SLAM

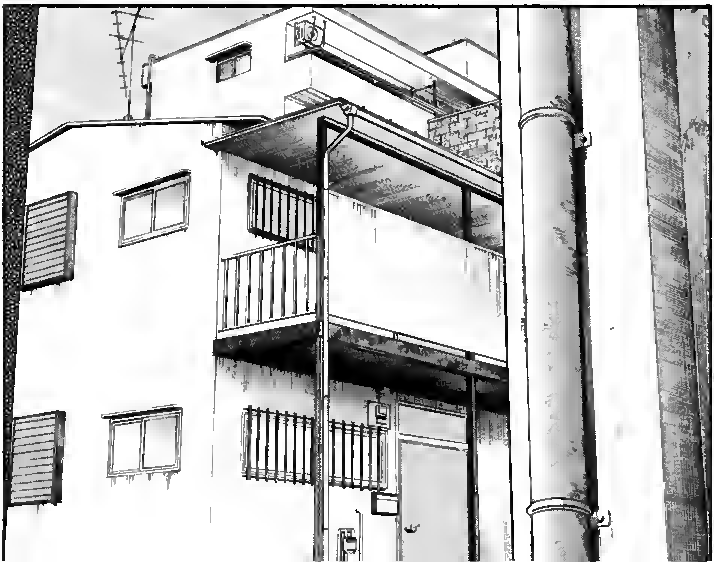
What should I do?
EVERYTHING CAN BE STOLEN ...
JUST LIKE THAT ...

.....
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THEY FORGOT THEIR SCARF IN THE WASHROOM
HEY! WHOSE IS THIS?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THERE WAS THAT MAN WHO CAME IN A WHILE AGO...

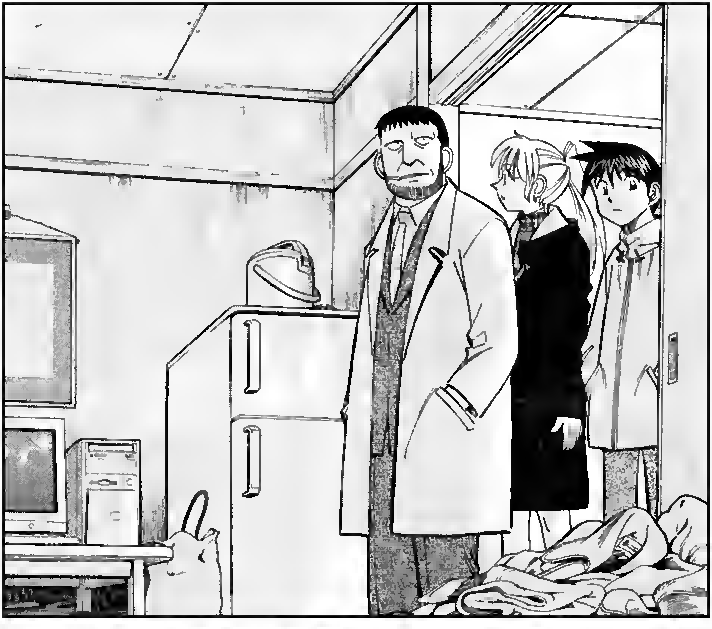

THANK YOU SO MUCH.
I WAS PLANNING TO RETURN IT TO HIM WHEN HE CAME BACK...

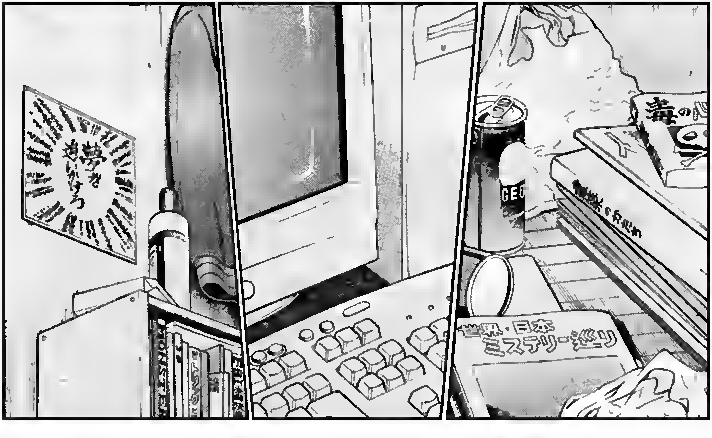



BUT HE NEVER DID...



HE WAS A SERIOUS AND QUIET PERSON...
AND HE ALWAYS PAID HIS RENT AT THE END OF THE MONTH.
WHY DID HE KILL HIMSELF ...?
COME IN...
NOTHING HAS BEEN MOVED.




世界・日本
ミステリー巡り

DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING, YOU TWO.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP
PLEASE PUT THE KEY IN THE MAILBOX.
MAYBE HE LEFT SOMETHING ON HIS COMPUTER ...?
OH. REALLY?

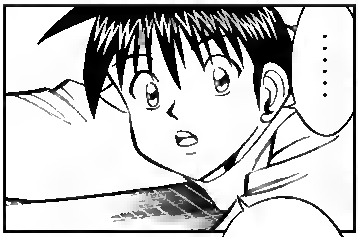
CLICK
UNDER-
STOOD.
MAYBE YOU
SHOULD
CHECK
THAT?
SIGHH
EVERYTHING
HAS BEEN
ERASED.
WHIRR
choose one of the
1 Create DOS partitior
2 Set active partitior
3 Delete partition or
4 Display partition ir
Enter choice [1]

WHAT'S THIS?
MAY I SEE IT?
WHOOSH

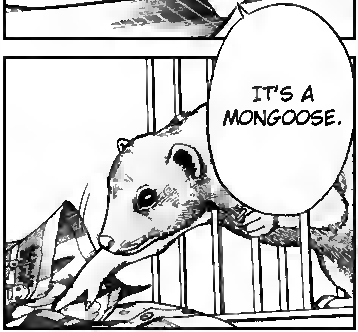
THIS IS A SNAKE'S SCALE.
IT'S PROBABLY FROM A TIGER KEELBACK .....
THEN SHITATSUMI -SAN REALLY IS THE KILLER..
!?
CLATTER

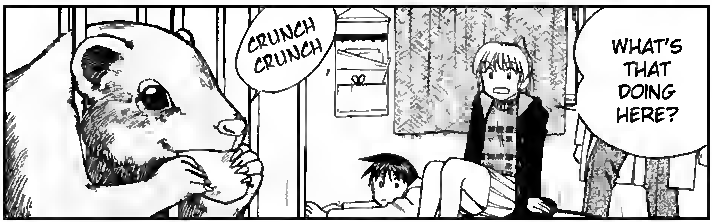
AH! WAIT ...!
WHAT IS THAT?
#@!!
KSSSSH!

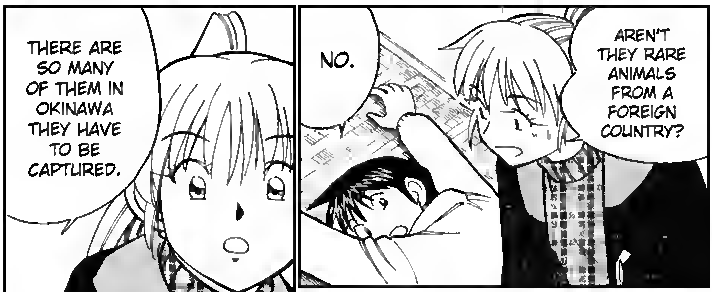
トタトタトタ
AAAH !!
WHA-!
シャー

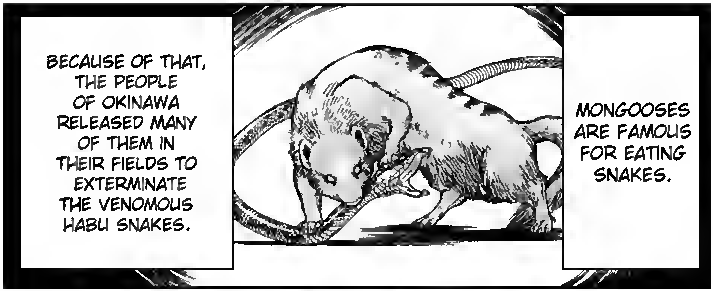

.....

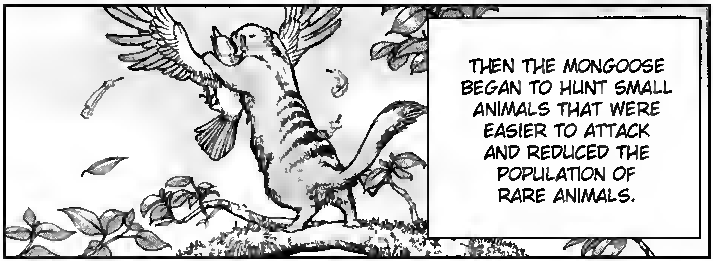
WHA... WHAT'S THAT?

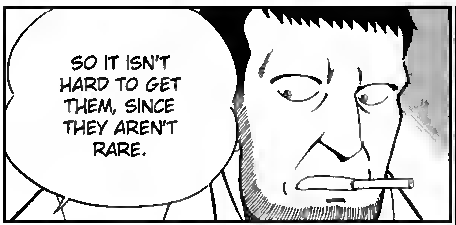

IT'S A MONGOOSE.

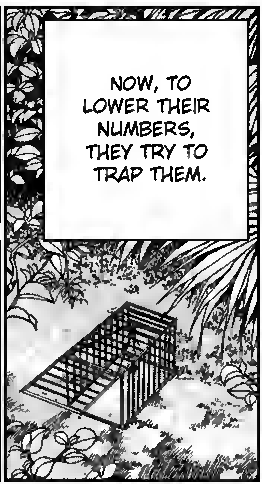

CRUNCH CRUNCH
WHAT'S THAT DOING HERE?

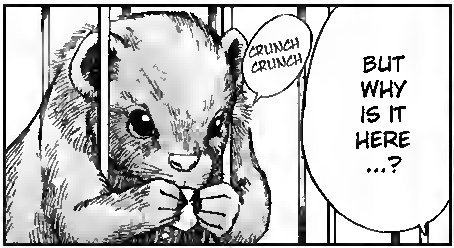

AREN'T THEY RARE ANIMALS FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY?
NO.
THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM IN OKINAWA THEY HAVE TO BE CAPTURED.


BECAUSE OF THAT, THE PEOPLE OF OKINAWA RELEASED MANY OF THEM IN THEIR FIELDS TO EXTERMINATE THE VENOMOUS HABU SNAKES.
MONGOOSES ARE FAMOUS FOR EATING SNAKES.

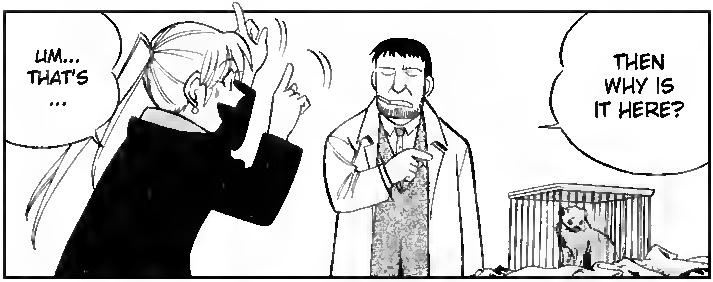

THEN THE MONGOOSE BEGAN TO HUNT SMALL ANIMALS THAT WERE EASIER TO ATTACK AND REDUCED THE POPULATION OF RARE ANIMALS.

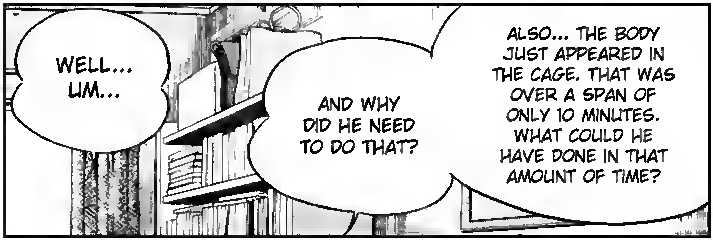

SO IT ISN'T HARD TO GET THEM, SINCE THEY AREN'T RARE.


NOW, TO LOWER THEIR NUMBERS, THEY TRY TO TRAP THEM.


CRUNCH CRUNCH
BUT WHY IS IT HERE ...?

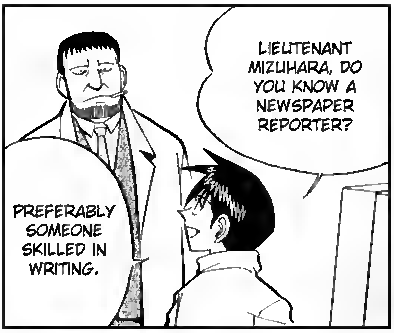
THE MONGOOSE ATE THE DANGEROUS WEAPON, THE TIGER KEELBACK, AFTER IT WAS USED!
THAT'S WHY THE WEAPON DISAPPEARED!
I GET IT!!
THEY TRIED TO ERASE THE EVIDENCE!
THAT'S SO THE LION EATS THE MONGOOSE...
UM, UH...
THEN WHY WAS THE BODY WAS PUT IN THE LION'S CAGE?


UM... THAT'S ...
THEN WHY IS IT HERE?

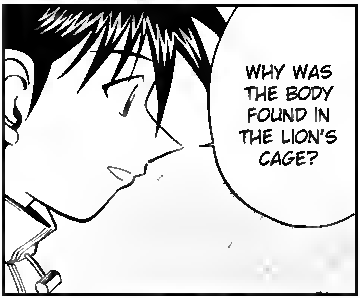

WELL... UM...
AND WHY DID HE NEED TO DO THAT?
ALSO... THE BODY JUST APPEARED IN THE CAGE. THAT WAS OVER A SPAN OF ONLY 10 MINUTES. WHAT COULD HE HAVE DONE IN THAT AMOUNT OF TIME?

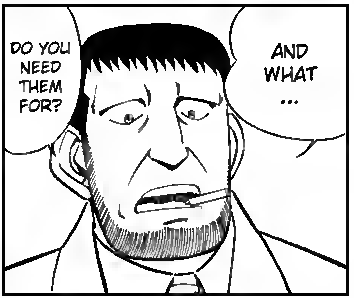
THAT WAS WORTH 60 POINTS.
JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE, MIZUHARA -SAN.

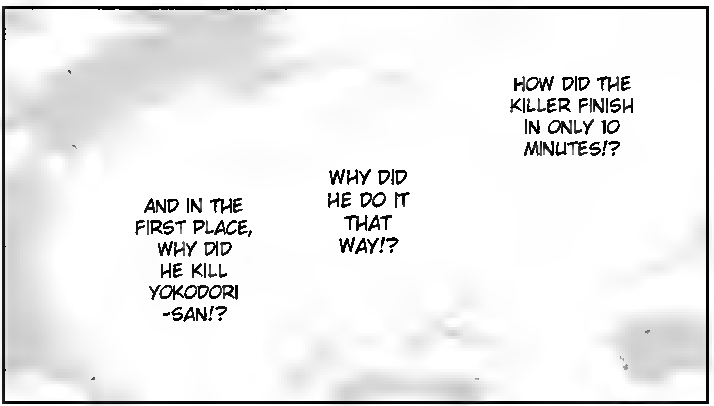
WAS I WRONG?
NO.


LIEUTENANT MIZUHARA, DO YOU KNOW A NEWSPAPER REPORTER?
PREFERABLY SOMEONE SKILLED IN WRITING.

?

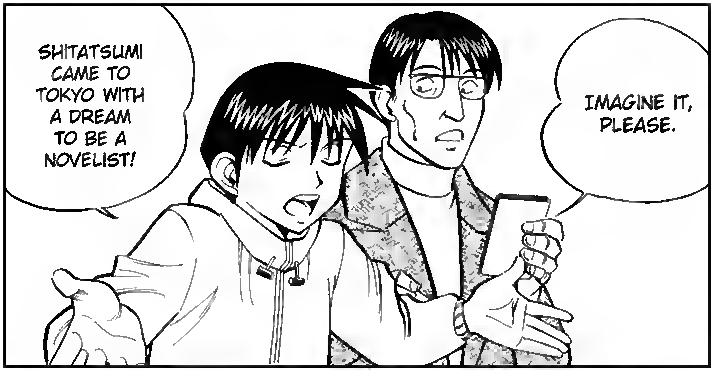

WHY WAS THE BODY FOUND IN THE LION'S CAGE?

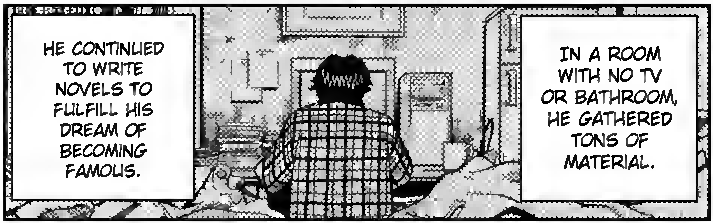

DO YOU NEED THEM FOR?
AND WHAT ...

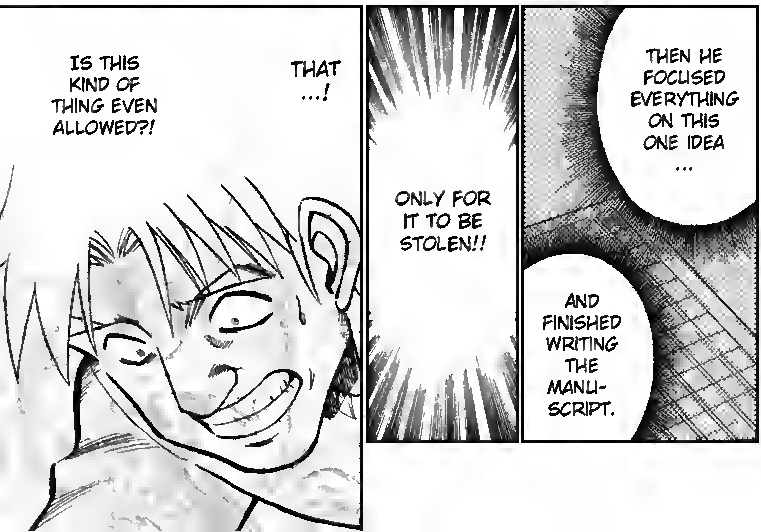

HOW DID THE KILLER FINISH IN ONLY 10 MINUTES!?
WHY DID HE DO IT THAT WAY!?
AND IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHY DID HE KILL YOKODORI -SAN!?

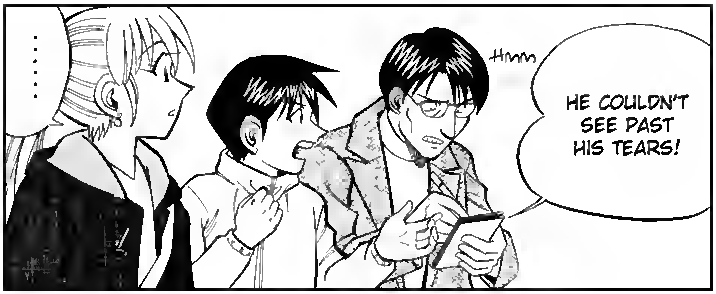
WE HAVE TO RESOLVE EVERYTHING.
SO THAT MIZUHARA -SAN DOESN'T HAVE STRANGE DREAMS AGAIN...
¥:／>q. e. d._
IT'S NEARING THE CONCLUSION ...

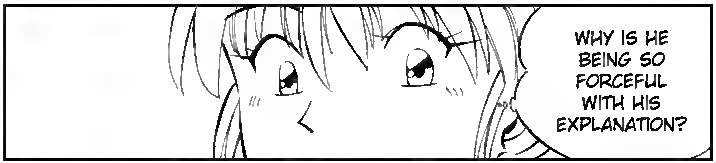
SO THE MURDERER WAS A MAN NAMED SHITATSUMI -SAN...
AND HE THOUGHT THE IDEA FOR HIS NOVEL HAD BEEN STOLEN.
THAT'S RIGHT, MR. REPORTER.
BECAUSE OF THAT, HE KILLED THE EDITOR, YOKODORI. AND...


SHITATSUMI CAME TO TOKYO WITH A DREAM TO BE A NOVELIST!
IMAGINE IT, PLEASE.

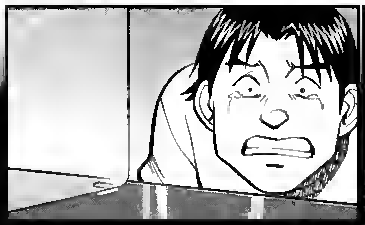

HE CONTINUED TO WRITE NOVELS TO FULFILL HIS DREAM OF BECOMING FAMOUS.
IN A ROOM WITH NO TV OR BATHROOM, HE GATHERED TONS OF MATERIAL.

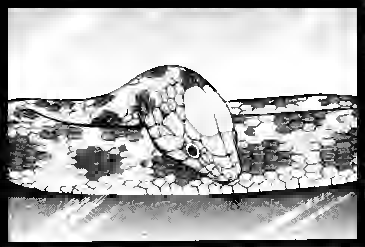

IS THIS KIND OF THING EVEN ALLOWED?!
THAT ...!
ONLY FOR IT TO BE STOLEN!!
THEN HE FOCUSED EVERYTHING ON THIS ONE IDEA ...
AND FINISHED WRITING THE MANU-SCRIPT.


.....
Hmm
HE COULDN'T SEE PAST HIS TEARS!


WHY IS HE BEING SO FORCEFUL WITH HIS EXPLANATION?

THE FRUSTRATION CLOUDED HIS REASON!!





I CAN'T LEAVE IT LIKE THIS!
NO!

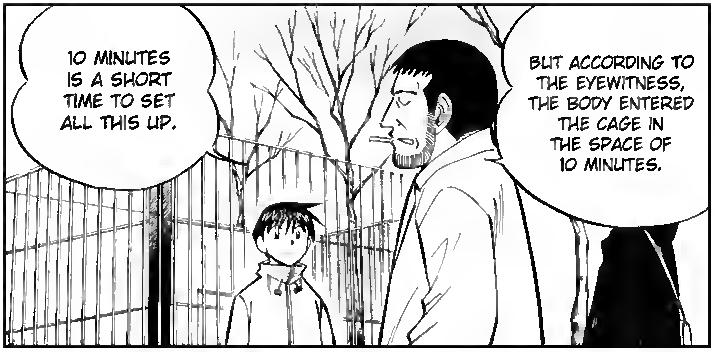
I WON'T LET IT END LIKE THIS!
THEN HE DECIDED ...
TO CARRY OUT THE TRICK HE HAD THOUGHT OF...
USING HIS OWN HANDS!
USING ...
HIS OWN HANDS !?

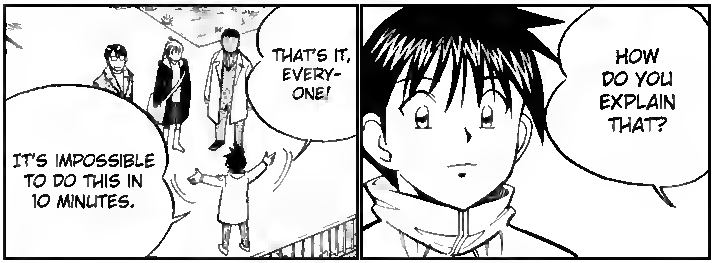
FIRST, HE GOT YOKODORI DRUNK.
THEN, HE DRAGGED HIM INTO THE LION'S CAGE.
AND HE FORCED THE TIGER KEELBACK TO BITE THE BACK OF HIS NECK.
IN THE END, HE DIED.
THE VENOM AFFECTED THE BLOOD AND CAUSED CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE
THEN THE TIGER KEELBACK WAS GIVEN TO THE MONGOOSE ...
TO GET RID OF THE MURDER WEAPON.
AFTER THAT, THE MONGOOSE WAS GIVEN TO THE LION.
THE PLAN WAS TO REMOVE EVEN MORE EVIDENCE.
CLATTER

HE WANTED SOMEONE TO UNDERSTAND HIS TRICK.
THE BODY WAS LEFT INSIDE THE LION CAGE BECAUSE...
SHITATSUMI WANTED TO BE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, EVEN IF IT COST HIM HIS LIFE.
THEN, TO PAY FOR HIS CRIME, HE CHOSE DEATH.
AND HE USED THE IDEA OF HIS TRICK.

.....
.....
HE DID THESE OUTRAGEOUS THINGS JUST TO PROTECT THE IDEA OF HIS TRICK?
YOU MUST BE JOKING, RIGHT?
IT WAS JUST FOR THE TRICK?
UM ...
CAW!!!
YOU'RE SAYING THAT SUCH A CHILDISH TRICK...

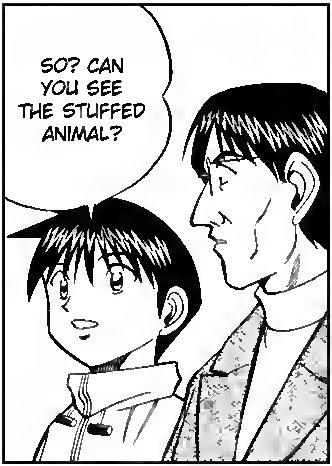
DO YOU KNOW HOW IT FEELS WHEN SOMEONE STEALS YOUR IDEA?
EVEN IF IT LOOKS LIKE THAT, I DEVISED THIS TRICK USING ALL MY MIGHT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN CHILDISH TRICK?!
WHY IS THE CROW SO NOISY?

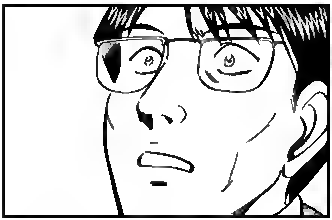

10 MINUTES IS A SHORT TIME TO SET ALL THIS UP.
BUT ACCORDING TO THE EYEWITNESS, THE BODY ENTERED THE CAGE IN THE SPACE OF 10 MINUTES.

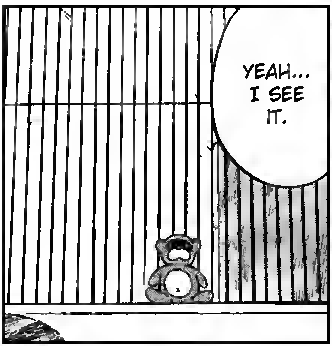

THAT'S IT, EVERY-ONE!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DO THIS IN 10 MINUTES.
HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?

!?
THAT WAS WHY THE KILLER PREPARED THE SECOND TRICK.

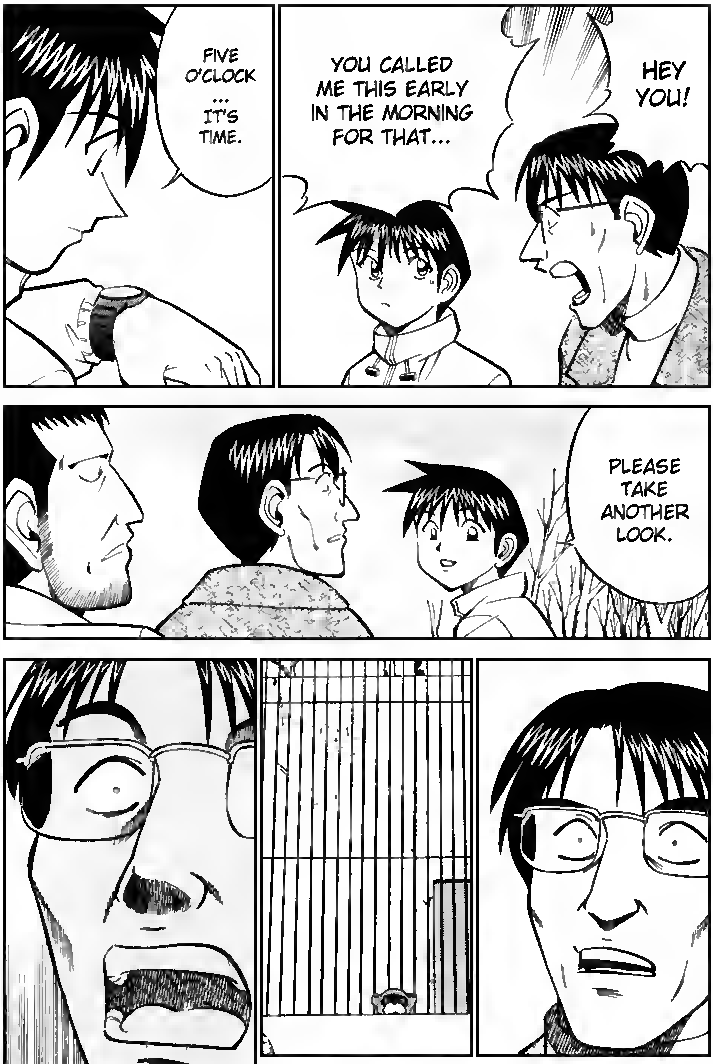
OK.
MIZUHARA-SAN, THE THING I ASKED YOU...
A STUFFED ANIMAL?
ズボ
NOW, EVERYONE PLEASE GO DOWN THE HILL.
I'LL PUT IT EXACTLY WHERE THE BODY WAS FOUND.

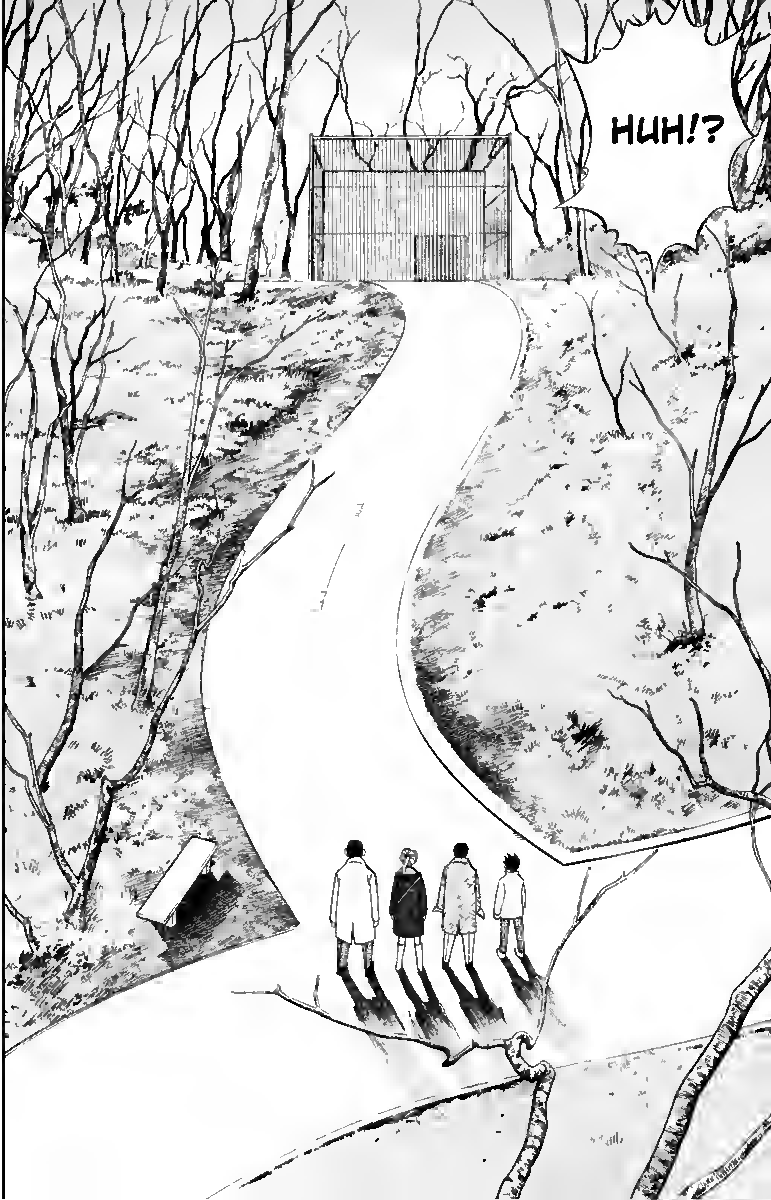

SO? CAN YOU SEE THE STUFFED ANIMAL?



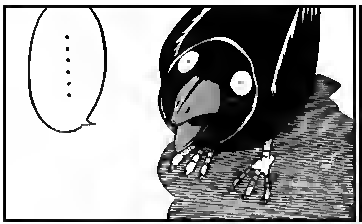

YEAH... I SEE IT.

THIS IS ABOUT WHERE THE FIRST PERSON FOUND THE BODY.


FIVE O'CLOCK ... IT'S TIME.
YOU CALLED ME THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING FOR THAT...
HEY YOU!
PLEASE TAKE ANOTHER LOOK.


HUH!?

THE STUFFED ANIMAL IS GONE!?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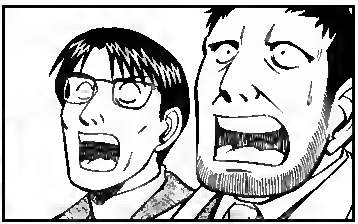
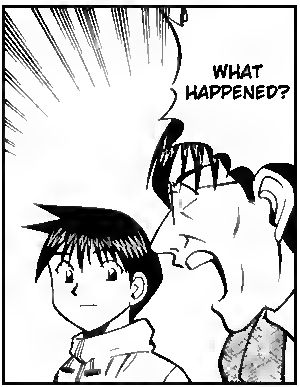
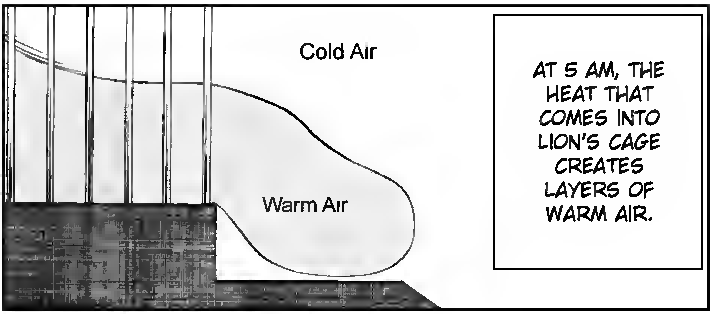
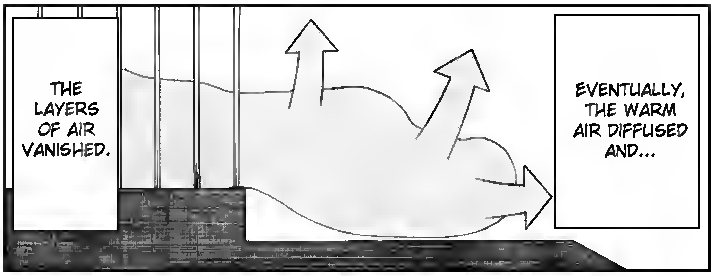


IT'S BECAUSE OF THE HEATING.

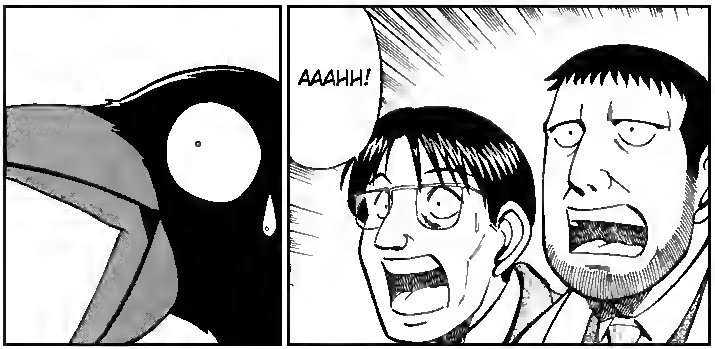

WHAT HAPPENED?


Cold Air
Warm Air
AT 5 AM, THE HEAT THAT COMES INTO LION'S CAGE CREATES LAYERS OF WARM AIR.

Original View
Refracted View
WARM AIR BENDS THE PATH OF LIGHT.
AT 5 AM, THE BODY WAS COMPLETELY HIDDEN.

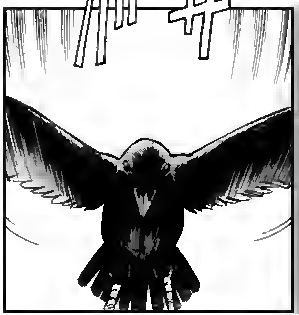

THE LAYERS OF AIR VANISHED.
EVENTUALLY, THE WARM AIR DIFFUSED AND...

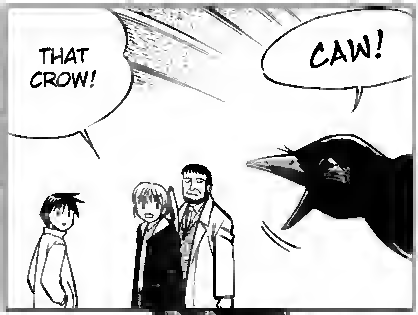
THE BODY WAS SEEN AGAIN.

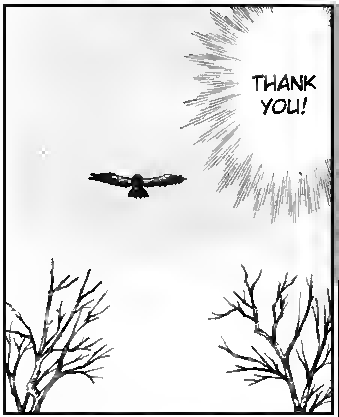

AAAHH!

HE WANTED TO HIDE THE BODY USING THIS TRICK.
BUT SHITATSUMI-SAN HAD THOROUGHLY CALCULATED THE ZOO'S SCHEDULE
ACTUALLY, THE BODY HAD BEEN THERE BEFORE 5 AM...
THAT IS...
THE END OF MY DEMON-STRATION.

SO, YOU'LL WRITE ABOUT THIS CASE IN AN ARTICLE?
ABSOLUTELY! I PROMISE!
THAT'S A GREAT TRICK!
AMAZING!
THANK YOU FOR THE MATERIAL! SEE YOU!!
I'LL WRITE YOU AN EXTRA-ORDINARY ARTICLE!
AH, SO THAT'S WHY HE WAS SO PASSIONATE...







BE A GREAT KID DETECTIVE!

YOU WILL DEFINITELY ...

HIS TRICK WILL BE SAVED IN PRINT.... IT'S A LITTLE INSPIRING, ISN'T IT?
IT FLEW AWAY...
I THINK IT WAS A COINCI-DENCE...
NO ...
SHITATSUMI-SAN WAS AMAZING TO THINK OF A GREAT TRICK LIKE THAT...
BUT ...
TO BEGIN WITH, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO CARRY IT OUT.
IT SEEMS THAT HE STOPPED AND LEFT THE MONGOOSE...
OH YEAH! WHY WAS THAT?

RIGHT BEFORE HE GAVE THE MONGOOSE TO THE LION...
PROBABLY SHITATSUMI -SAN REALIZED IT.
THAT THERE WOULD BE BONES LEFT...

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●冬の動物園…マガジンＧＲＥＡＴ　2001年３月号掲載

quod erat demonstrandum

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Winter Zoo: Part One

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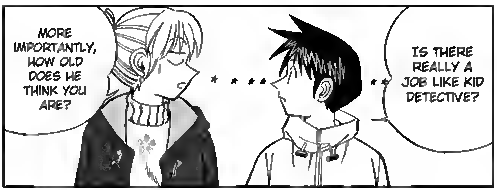

I GUESS IT'S A TOUMA FAMILY TRAIT, SINCE SHINRA LOOKS YOUNG TOO. I THINK SOU IS OLDER THAN HIM BY A YEAR.

Q.E.D.
¥:／>q. e. d._
Q.E.D.
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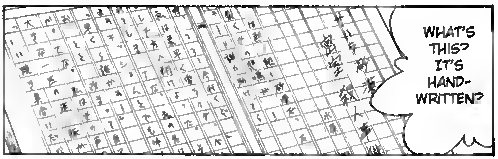
ORIONWAVE

Winter Zoo: Part Two

Translators: J.Chew and Lynossa
Cleaner: argentscarf
Typesetter and QC: Zao



SO... KANA WROTE A NOVEL ABOUT A LOCKED ROOM MURDER CASE IN THE SAHARA DESERT. THAT'S ABOUT ALL I CAN SEE CLEARLY ENOUGH.

Q.E.D.

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Q.E.D.

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Q.E.D.

ORIONWAVE

Winter Zoo: Part Three

Translator: Lynossa
Cleaner: Gobi
Typesetter: argentscarf
QC: Nona

WOW... THAT WAS A TWIST I WASN'T EXPECTING. I DID THINK SHITATSUMI WASN'T REALLY THE TYPE TO HAVE THOUGHT OF THE SECOND TRICK ANYWAY...

Q.E.D.

¥:／>q. e. d._

Q.E.D.

Q.E.D

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Q.E.D.

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